



OBSTETRICS ♦ GYNECOLOGY ♦ INFERTILITY  
ENDOSCOPIC & ROBOTIC SURGERY

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## **ATLANTA GYNECOLOGIST PERFORMS SINGLE INCISION HYSTERECTOMY THROUGH ONE SMALL INCISION**

ATLANTA, GA. – May 25, 2010 – Dr. Michael Randell, a gynecologist at Northside Hospital – Atlanta, has performed the Hospital's first single incision hysterectomy using only one, small 20mm (less than one inch) incision hidden in the belly button.

About 600,000 hysterectomies are performed annually in the United States. It is the second most common surgery among women. Today, seventy-percent of hysterectomies are performed using a four to eight-inch abdominal incision.

Dr. Randell is a well-trained gynecological surgeon with more than 19 years of experience performing complex gynecological surgeries. He offers several minimally invasive options for women needing a hysterectomy, including multiple incision laparoscopic, single-incision and robotic surgery.

“Most women are unaware of the newest techniques available to them for a hysterectomy,” said Dr. Randell. “I believe that small incisions are better for my patients. I have been offering my patients laparoscopic and robotic surgery for many years. Now I can perform a hysterectomy using just one, small incision that allows for quick healing, less pain, and virtually no visible scar.” Dr. Randell's patient went home the day following her surgery.

Dr. Randell and his surgical team performed the surgery using the SILS™ Port (SILS stands for single-incision laparoscopic surgery), a flexible device placed within a small incision in the belly button that allows for up to three surgical instruments to be inserted. He also used the new LigaSure™ 5mm laparoscopic sealer and divider and the new SILS™ Stitch articulating suturing device which is the only automated suturing device with articulating features and a rotating tip to deliver optimal mobility. In addition to performing the first SILS™ hysterectomy at Northside Hospital - Atlanta, Dr. Randell was the first gynecological surgeon at the Hospital to use the SILS™ Stitch. All three devices are manufactured by Covidien. Dr. Randell also used the world's first 5-mm deflectable tip laparoscope made by Olympus.

“These innovative devices allow me to insert several instruments into the patient and eliminates the need for multiple incisions to accommodate multiple instrument that are commonly used to perform a hysterectomy,” said Dr. Randell. “My patients ultimately benefit from these advances in minimally invasive surgery.”