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For Immediate Release

MORRISTOWN MEMORIAL USES SPYGLASS TECHNOLOGY FOR GI PATIENTS **New Visualization System Eliminates Need for Repeat Procedures**

MORRISTOWN, NJ JANUARY 22, 2009 – Morristown Memorial Hospital, part of Atlantic Health, is the first hospital in Northern New Jersey to use the SpyGlass Direct Visualization System, technology used during a minimally invasive endoscopy procedure to visually examine a patient’s bile ducts. The new system allows physicians to potentially offer a diagnosis, distinguish between malignant and benign disease, and even begin treatment without additional procedures.

“SpyGlass offers the latest technology in the area of GI/Endoscopy that significantly improves quick, accurate diagnoses and even immediate treatment for patients,” said Michael Samach, MD, head of endoscopy at the Center for Digestive Health at Morristown Memorial. The hospital started using in 2008.

For more than 30 years, physicians have been able to conduct a cholangioscopy to allow for direct visualization of a patient’s biliary system, which releases bile to aid digestion. Biliary system disorders can include gallstones, cholangitis or biliary duct cancer. With a conventional procedure, physicians would use an endoscope to view the entrance to the biliary tract while using catheters to gain access to the biliary ducts. Visualization was achieved by injecting contrast dye and taking X-rays of the area. However, those images often would not provide sufficient information to complete a diagnosis, forcing the need for additional testing.

The SpyGlass System allows a single physician to potentially secure a definitive diagnosis and even begin treatment during one procedure. Using a miniature fiber-optic probe that attaches to a camera head, the probe is inserted through a catheter that can be steered in four directions to access and examine the treatment area.

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