ALTERNATIVE TO TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT
QUICKLY RETURNS BOOMERS TO BUSY LIVES
Hip Resurfacing at Morristown Memorial Stabilizes Joint, Saves Bone, Appeals to Mid-Lifers

MORRISTOWN, NJ, APRIL 9, 2007 – Baby Boomers suffering with hip pain used to face a difficult choice: either continue to struggle, or sacrifice their activities for total hip replacement surgery. Now they can undergo hip resurfacing, a new option which allows them to quickly resume their active lifestyles.

Wayne A. Colizza, MD, an orthopedic surgeon at Morristown Memorial Hospital, is one of just three New Jersey doctors trained on the Birmingham Hip Resurfacing technique, an increasingly popular procedure. Rather than replacing the entire hip joint, as with total hip replacement, hip resurfacing entails shaving just the surface of the bone and placing a metal cap on it, thereby preserving the natural bone underneath and allowing patients to quickly return to their activities.

“I see hip resurfacing as the ideal solution for many of my young, active patients who suffer from hip pain,” said Colizza, who has been in orthopedic surgical practice since 1993. “As I see younger patients with hip pain, and others who stay physically active much later in life, they require an alternative to total hip replacement that accommodates their age and lifestyle.”

This hip is intended for patients below age 65 who live active lifestyles but who have been sidelined because of an injury, arthritis or other degenerative condition. Patients who recently have undergone the resurfacing said they feel less pain one day after surgery then they did after a workout with hip pain.

“Before hip resurfacing, a 50-year-old patient could be told to wait until his late 60s or early 70s to have his hip replaced,” said William Dowling, MD, chairman, orthopedics, Morristown Memorial. “At Morristown Memorial Hospital, we are pleased to offer Baby Boomers an alternative that means they will be able to engage in unrestricted activities after their recovery, something patients cannot expect when they have total hip replacement surgery.”

The Birmingham Hip’s bone-conserving approach preserves more of the patient’s natural bone structures and stability, covering the joint’s surfaces with an all-metal implant that more closely resembles a tooth cap than a hip implant. This approach reduces the post-operative risks of dislocation and inaccurate leg length and has the potential to last longer than traditional hip implants.
Part of Atlantic Health, www.atlantichealth.org, Morristown Memorial is a non-profit 642-licensed-bed hospital in Morristown, New Jersey. Morristown Memorial’s specialties include cardiology and cardiac surgery, adult and pediatric oncology, critical and emergency care and inpatient rehabilitation and neonatal intensive care services. Morristown Memorial is also a Level II Regional Trauma Center, a Level III Regional Perinatal Center and a Regional Pediatric Center. Other services include the Goryeb Children’s Hospital, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center, Wound Care Center®, Sleep Disorder Center, Hyperbaric Medicine Program, Diabetes Center, Valerie Fund Center (pediatric oncology cancer program), Photopheresis Center, Atlantic Mind Body Center, Atlantic Behavioral Health, Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute, and Atlantic Home Care and Hospice. The hospital is the largest employer in Morristown, the second largest employer in Morris County, and is accredited by The Joint Commission. Morristown Memorial earned the 2005 Consumer Choice Award from National Research Corporation and is designated as a Magnet Hospital for Excellence in Nursing Service – the highest level of recognition by American Nurses Credentialing Center available to facilities that provide excellent acute care services.

Atlantic Health, one of the largest non-profit health care systems in New Jersey, includes Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital in Summit, and Mountainside Hospital in Montclair/Glen Ridge. Atlantic Health is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.