

# NEWS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release**

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL SURGEON PERFORMS LAPAROSCOPIC HYSTERECTOMY** *Medical Center Is First in Region for Procedure*

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, N.C. (December 6, 2009)—Women undergoing hysterectomies are benefitting from new surgical technology at Halifax Regional.**

Thomas McDonald, MD, of Women's Health Specialists in Roanoke Rapids has performed several laparoscopic hysterectomies with a single incision. "This procedure is another example of advanced technology that results in improved experiences for patients," he said.

"Halifax Regional is the first hospital in the region to perform this surgical procedure," said McDonald.

In the procedure, McDonald uses the patient's belly button as the only access point to remove the uterus. Hysterectomies usually are performed for the treatment of excessive bleeding and pain from uterine fibroids.

"The benefits to patients are the potential for no visible scar, less pain, and a quicker recovery," said McDonald. The patient may not even see evidence of the surgery, he said. Patients often return home the day of surgery.

"Halifax Regional is equipped to offer patients an advanced form of laparoscopic hysterectomies and other gynecological procedures," McDonald continued. "We are pleased that patients in the Roanoke Valley are benefitting from the advancements in the minimally invasive arena without having to travel out of town."

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 600,000 hysterectomies are performed annually in the United States. Approximately 20 million American women have had a hysterectomy. Most patients will qualify for the surgery, although some will not, including those with severe adhesive disease.

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**About Halifax Regional-**

*Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 204 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit [www.halifaxregional.us](http://www.halifaxregional.us).*

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