



NEW CUTTING EDGE PROCEDURE BRINGS FRESH HOPE TO ACID REFLUX SUFFERERS

FIRST SCOTTISH PATIENT RECEIVES BRAND NEW TREATMENT

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA – November 10, 2011 – Aberdeen shop assistant Jacqueline Thomson, 54, has become the first person in Scotland to benefit from a revolutionary new surgical procedure which addresses the symptoms of Gastro-oesophageal Reflux Disease (GORD).

Developed by US business, Torax Medical - established in 2002 - the LINX Reflux Management System is a simple procedure designed to restore the body's natural barrier to reflux and eliminate the symptoms associated with reflux disease.¹

Surgeon Mr Ken Park from Aberdeen Surgical, the specialist healthcare provider that delivers the LINX procedure in Scotland, performed the operation today (10 November 2011) at Aberdeen's BMI Hospital on Albyn Place.

Commenting on the procedure, Mr Park said: "Nearly 200 people worldwide with chronic Gastro-oesophageal Reflux Disease have benefited from the LINX System to date and the research has been very encouraging.

"This simple procedure can be completed in less than an hour and patients can resume a normal diet the next day and quickly return to their usual activities. It starts working immediately, offering patients relief from the symptoms of GORD and a quick return to normal life."

GORD is very common, with approximately 1 in 5 people in the UK having at least one episode a week.² Common symptoms include heartburn, regurgitation and chest pain, which can be severe and persist over time.²

When GORD is left untreated serious complications can occur, such as oesophagitis, stricture, Barrett's oesophagus (a pre-cancerous condition) and oesophageal cancer.³

The LINX System is a small, flexible band of interlinked titanium beads with magnetic cores that is placed around the oesophagus just above the stomach via keyhole surgery.

Mrs Thomson underwent the procedure having suffered from persistent GORD symptoms for the last three years.

She said: "Living with chronic reflux has really affected how I live my life. There are certain things I just can't eat or drink as they will trigger an attack and going out for dinner is virtually impossible.

"I'm really hoping the results are going to have a massive impact on my life and general health. In particular I'm looking forward to being able to eat fruit and drink fruit juice, which I haven't done for a number of years."

Most people with GORD will be put on medication to relieve symptoms, usually a class of drug called a Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI), which suppresses the normal acid production in the stomach. However, because the drugs do not prevent reflux, many people still experience the symptoms of GORD despite taking regular or high doses of medication.^{4,5,6}

If symptoms are not relieved by medication, the only other option until now has been fundoplication, a surgical procedure that involves wrapping part of the stomach around the oesophagus, altering the anatomy of the stomach. This operation is often reserved for severe cases and success rates can vary depending on the experience of the surgeon.⁷

The LINX System offers a new treatment option for people whose symptoms are not well controlled by medication but not severe enough to warrant a fundoplication.¹

Research shows that the procedure is highly effective, with as many as 86% of people stopping medication for GORD and reporting that they are satisfied with their condition two years after the LINX procedure.

For further information about how to access the LINX Reflux Management System in Scotland, please contact Aberdeen Surgical on 0333 240 0421.

People with GORD can join in the discussion on the LINX System and talk to other people with the condition on:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LINXRefluxManagementSystem

Twitter: @linxsystem

Torax Medical:

Torax Medical was founded in 2002 with the mission of creating a better treatment option for patients suffering from Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD). Through these efforts, Torax has pioneered a new technology platform called Magnetic Sphincter Augmentation (MSA), which may be applied to a variety of conditions throughout the body. The LINX Reflux Management System for the treatment of GORD is currently under clinical investigation; active research is ongoing in other fields of use. The LINX System has received CE Mark and is currently being used to treat patients with GORD in Italy and Germany. Torax Medical is a privately held corporation that is based in the United States.

Aberdeen Surgical:

Aberdeen Surgical is a private consortium of general surgeons. In partnership with BMI Albyn Hospital, Aberdeen Surgical provides consultant and medical advice, admissions, treatment and surgery.

Ken Park FRCSEd MD, General and GI Surgeon, has been a consultant general surgeon in Aberdeen for 15 years. He graduated from Edinburgh University and gained surgical training in Edinburgh and Hong Kong before undertaking a thesis at the Rowett Institute and completing higher surgical training in Aberdeen.

Ken has a particular interest in upper gastrointestinal and laparoscopic surgery and has spent time in Europe and the USA learning endoscopic and laparoscopic surgery. Ken has 27 years experience and has been involved in teaching, research and clinical surgery in the UK, Europe and Asia.

References:

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