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UVMC ADDS ADVANCED SURGICAL NAVIGATION TECHNOLOGY

Ukiah Valley Medical Center has added an advanced technology from GE Medical Systems, the InstaTrak Surgical Navigation system, to make endoscopic surgeries safer and more effective. InstaTrak enables surgeons to see areas of a patient's sinuses and skull anatomy in more detail than ever before, in addition to visualizing the exact position of surgical instruments during the procedure.

More than 300,000 people undergo a procedure called Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (ESS) each year in the U.S. to repair sinus disorders. Candidates for the procedure include patients with chronic sinusitis, nasal polyps, failed nasal surgery, chronic sinus headaches and other sinus problems that may require surgical repair. According to UVMC Chief-of-staff, Gregory Esselman, MD, the InstaTrak system will allow UVMC to provide better care to patients requiring ESS. "For the thousands of people who require sinus surgery each year, this technology offers more comprehensive treatment with increased confidence and decreased risk. We are very pleased to offer this new technology," said Esselman.

During ESS, an endoscope, which acts like a miniature telescope, illuminates the surgeon's view of the sinuses. But like a telescope, the endoscope only provides a view of the immediate surface area and does not allow the surgeon to see around corners. Because of the proximity of the sinuses to the eyes and brain, InstaTrak System can reduce the risks related to the procedure. The surgeon can precisely see the position of surgical instruments and the movement of the instruments can be tracked in real time, allowing the surgeon to more accurately seek out and remove diseased tissue.

GE's InstaTrak Surgical Navigation system builds a computerized model of a patient's skull anatomy with computed tomography scans (CT or CAT scans) taken prior to surgery. These images displayed on a computer monitor provide a road map for the surgeon to follow. InstaTrak's electromagnetic tracking system links the instruments used in the surgery to the system's computer. During surgery, the tip of the instrument inserted into the patient's nostrils appears on the computer monitor as a set of cross hairs, which move through the computerized model of the patient's skull. This allows the surgeon to see the exact location of the surgical instrument in relation to the patient's anatomy.

“We are delighted with this new piece of equipment that will not only allow us to have the very best technology available, but will also allow the very best care for our community,” said UVMC President/CEO Mark E. LaRose.

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About Ukiah Valley Medical Center

Ukiah Valley Medical Center is a member of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health care system affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with headquarters in Roseville, California. Spanning California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, the organization is comprised of 85 distinct business units, including 20 acute care facilities—controlled, managed or leased—with more than 3,100 beds, 17,200 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 18 home health agencies and two retirement centers. For more information, visit www.uvmc.org or www.adventisthealth.org.

About GE Medical Systems

GE Medical Systems is a \$9 billion global leader in medical imaging, interventional procedures, healthcare services, and information technology. Its offerings include networking and productivity tools, clinical information systems, patient monitoring systems, surgery and vascular imaging, conventional and digital X-ray, computed tomography, electron beam tomography, magnetic resonance, ultrasound and bone mineral densitometry, positron emission tomography, nuclear medicine, and a comprehensive portfolio of clinical and business services. For more than 100 years, health care providers worldwide have relied on GE Medical Systems for high quality medical technology and productivity solutions. For more information, visit the GE Medical Systems Web site at www.gemedical.com