A June 2011 survey from Harris Interactive reported that one out of every 10 respondents thought that hip replacement gives people back the independence they need to pursue their lives. “Sometimes the surgeon can’t see the implant during surgery,” Dr. Nebel continued. “The use of the robot and surgical imagery that is projected on the computer monitor allows the surgeon to properly place the implant.”

Patients who have experienced the benefits of robotic-assisted hip replacement surgery can expect with joint replacement surgery.

“I am really excited about this technology because it truly is the beginning of what surgeons and patients can expect with joint replacements in the future,” concludes Dr. Heithoff. “This is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to knee, hip and shoulder care. With robotic technology, we can take procedures that are already being done and improve upon their success, ultimately providing our patients with enhanced care, improved mobility and a better quality of life.”

If you are considering joint replacement surgery, speak with your physician about robotic surgery. You can also attend a monthly education session, called “A Week Ahead of Time,” at our certified surgical centers. To learn more about future sessions, or obtain a referral to a qualified MakoPlasty® hip replacement surgeon, call toll free 1-888-948-MERCY, or visit us online at mymercy.us.

St. Joseph Mercy Robotic Surgery Benefits Hip Patients

Dr. Nebel said, and “I had it available, and they are all doing exceptionally well.” Dr. Nebel said. “While this is a relatively new procedure, I am expecting an equal success rate with the hip replacements.”

WHO IS A GOOD CANDIDATE?

Patients who have one or more of the following symptoms may be good candidates:

• Pain while putting weight on the affected joint
• Limping to lessen weight-bearing pressure on the hip
• Pain or stiffness during walking or other impact activities
• Failure to respond to other treatments

Failure to respond to other treatments

“Unequal leg length means the patient has to wear a shoe lift on one side or use a cane because of the unevenness. This can not only make it hard for him/her unstable, but often causes him/her to limp forward.” Dr. Nebel added. “This new surgery will help prevent that because it is all templated out ahead of time.”

Patients of robotic-assisted surgical procedures can potentially experience other numerous benefits, including a shorter hospital stay and quicker recovery.

“I have completed 125 partial knee replacements with enhanced care, improved mobility and a better quality of life.”

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Technology of Tomorrow

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