



**Immediate Release**  
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## **First Single Port – Single Incision Laparoscopic Gallbladder Surgeries performed at St. Joseph’s Hospital**

*- Dr. Isidro Amigo performs two gallbladder surgeries using new technique -*

**Parkersburg, WV** –Twenty years ago a patient having gallbladder surgery would have a 6 inch incision, spend several days recovering in the hospital and be limited in their physical activity for about two months. In the 1990’s surgical techniques were revolutionalized when surgeons started performing these same procedures laparoscopically through three small incisions (or ports) – one for the camera, one for the surgical instruments and one for suction. Typical laparoscopic surgery involves three small incisions, normally as an outpatient procedure with the patient going home the same or next day and about 10 days of limited activity.

Fast forward to Thursday, November 12 when the first single port - single incision laparoscopic gallbladder surgeries were performed at St. Joseph’s Hospital with one small incision, on a same day outpatient basis with mere days before resuming normal activity. The two single port - single incision gallbladder surgeries were performed by general surgeon, Isidro Amigo, D.O.

“This is a great advancement for the Mid-Ohio Valley,” shared Jack Julius, CEO of St. Joseph’s Hospital. “Single port - single incision laparoscopic surgeries have grown in popularity over the past twelve months, mostly at major academic institutions. Thursday’s procedure illustrates the dedication and commitment of our medical staff in bringing new advances to our community. Dr. Amigo worked very closely with Applied Medical, the vendor for the GelPoint™ single port device, with Covidien, the manufacturer of the specialized flexible instruments, and with Stryker, who provided the specialized video equipment, in training and preparations for Thursday’s surgeries.”

Both of the single port - single incision procedures were laparoscopic cholecystectomies (gallbladder removal). “The single port - single incision laparoscopic technique is a great option for gallbladder removal,” explained Dr. Amigo. “To minimize the amount of scarring, the GelPoint™ single port device is typically inserted into an opening near the belly button. The port itself has three separate slots to navigate

the flexible instruments and camera through. The slots are centrally located to allow the surgeon to efficiently move and maneuver during the procedure." Dr. Amigo reported that both patients did very well during their procedures, with virtually no scars and minimal recovery time.

The single port - single incision technique is also expanding as an option for urologists performing kidney and prostate surgeries and OB/GYNs performing gynecologic surgeries. Dr. Amigo also plans to explore the use of single port - single incision techniques for the Lapband bariatric procedures he performs at St. Joseph's Hospital.

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### **About St. Joseph's Hospital**

St. Joseph's Hospital is a 325-bed acute care facility located in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Founded in 1900 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the hospital boasts state-of-the-art technology and a team of dedicated employees and physicians. St. Joseph's offers comprehensive acute medical care and surgical services on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. The facility is the only open-heart surgery and angioplasty program within a 90-mile radius and was the first permanently designated Level III Trauma Program in the Mid-Ohio Valley. In 2008 St. Joseph's invested more than \$46 million into the Mid-Ohio Valley and the State of West Virginia through taxes, charity care, capital investment and salaries. The hospital was named a 100 Top Hospital by Thomson Reuters in 2000. For more information, please visit [www.stjosephs-hospital.com](http://www.stjosephs-hospital.com).

### **About Signature Hospital Corporation**

Based in Houston, Texas, Signature Hospital Corp. is a privately held company founded in 2005 that is dedicated to providing affordable, state-of-the-art medical services to communities in which it owns and operates hospitals. Anchored by its mission to be the industry leader in adding measurable value to the delivery of healthcare, Signature backs its commitment to patient safety with Signature *Insights*, proprietary technology for measuring and improving quality in its hospitals. Signature presently owns and operates three hospitals: 115-licensed bed Pampa Regional Medical Center in Pampa, Texas; 161-licensed bed Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton, Texas; and 325-licensed bed St. Joseph's Hospital, in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Signature's board and management team boast more than two centuries of combined experience in healthcare management and finance. Signature's financial partner is Goldman Sachs, the nation's premier investment banking firm. For more information on Signature, please visit [www.signaturehospital.com](http://www.signaturehospital.com).