Surgeon at Advanced Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation First in Pennsylvania to Perform Artificial Spinal Disc Replacement Surgery Using activL® Artificial Disc

activL® Artificial Disc Provides Patients with Movement Closer to the Natural Biomechanics of the Healthy Human Spine

PITTSBURGH, PA – April 20th, 2017 – Advanced Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation (AOR) announced today the successful implantation of a new artificial spinal disc replacement device in two patients by Dr. Jocelyn Idema. Dr. Idema is the first Spine Surgeon in Pennsylvania to perform this type of surgery using the Aesculap Implant Systems activL® Artificial Disc with Intelligent Motion Technology™. activL® Artificial Disc is designed for use in the lumbar spine and is intended to treat patients with chronic back pain caused by one-level degenerative disc disease. In contrast with other treatments such as spinal fusion, activL® Artificial Disc is designed to more closely mirror the natural movement of the healthy human spine following surgery.

“We are proud to be the first surgeons in the region to embrace this breakthrough approach to treating chronic lower back pain caused by degenerative disc disease,” said Dr. Idema. “Based on outcomes from the activL® Artificial Disc clinical trial and our own patient feedback, we believe that the activL® Artificial Disc represents the next generation of spinal disc replacement technology. It comes closer than any other product before it to mimicking the natural movement of the healthy human spine. We’re proud to be on the cutting edge of delivering better patient outcomes.”

Advanced Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation (AOR) performed the first surgery using activL® Artificial Disc on April 20th, 2017. Dr. Idema is also the first Spine surgeon in Pennsylvania to implant the activL® Artificial Disc, which is the next generation lumbar total disc replacement and is also the first new lumbar total disc replacement that the FDA has approved in over 10 years.

Clinical studies for activL® Artificial Disc have demonstrated increased range of motion, lower pain scores and a faster return-to-work rate than for other artificial disc replacement products. The activL® Artificial Disc features cobalt chromium endplates which affix to the patient’s vertebrae with bone-sparing spikes for initial stabilization. It is the first lumbar artificial disc with a mobile ultra high molecular weight polyethylene core that supports both controlled translational and rotational movement similar to the movement of the healthy lumbar spine. It offers the widest range of footprints and heights, including an 8.5 mm design, which is the lowest height construct available on the market.

The Aesculap Implant Systems activL® Artificial Disc is indicated for reconstruction of the disc at one level (L4-L5 or L5-S1) following single-level discectomy in skeletally mature patients with symptomatic degenerative disc disease (DDD) with no more than Grade I spondylolisthesis at the involved level. DDD is defined as discogenic back pain with degeneration of the disc confirmed by patient history, physical examination and radiographic studies. The activL® Artificial Disc is implanted using an anterior retroperitoneal approach. Patients receiving the activL® Artificial Disc should have failed at least six months of nonoperative treatment prior to implantation of the device.

About Aesculap Implant Systems, LLC
Aesculap Implant Systems, LLC, a B. Braun company, is part of a 175-year-old global organization focused on meeting the needs of the changing healthcare environment. Through close collaboration with its customers, Aesculap Implant Systems develops advanced spine and Orthopaedic implant technologies to treat complex disorders of the spine, hip and knee. Aesculap Implant Systems strives to deliver products and services that improve the quality of patients’ lives. For more information, call 800-234-9179 or visit aesculapimplantsystems.com.