

Contact: Kaelyn Stolhand
281.274.8085
KStolhand@tmhs.org

**Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
performs Texas' first single port laparoscopic adrenalectomy surgery**

SUGAR LAND—(February 6, 2009) — Methodist Sugar Land Hospital was the FIRST site in the state of Texas for the first single port laparoscopic adrenalectomy removal surgery.

Guillermo Ponce de Leon, M.D., general surgeon on staff at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, performed the entire surgery with only one incision, leaving John Eberhardt with a barely visible scar. By placing a port into Eberhardt's abdomen, Dr. Ponce de Leon was able to pass all of the necessary instruments and cameras simultaneously through the one incision. At the end of the procedure, Dr. Ponce de Leon simply removed the ports, leaving hardly any evidence of the surgical incision.

Traditional laparoscopic surgeries require between three and five incisions in the abdomen leaving three to four permanent scars. "The goal of this procedure is to reduce post operative pain and speed recovery time for the patient," said Dr. Ponce de Leon. Eberhardt experienced minimal discomfort and was able to return home the next morning.

"I expected to be in the hospital 2 to 3 days with 3 to 5 incisions and out of work for several weeks," Eberhardt said. "I was glad to be home the next day with my family, and I am surprised with how fast the recovery time was. I am also happy to have such a small scar with only one incision."

Single port laparoscopic adrenalectomy surgery is just one of the many medical firsts that Methodist Sugar Land Hospital has brought to Fort Bend County. Just in the last couple of years, for example, Methodist Sugar Land Hospital's physicians have successfully performed abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, angioplasty with stents, brain surgery, carotid artery stenting, gastric lap band surgery, open heart surgery, single port laparoscopic gallbladder surgery and urinary bladder reconstruction – the first time any of those procedures had been done in Fort Bend County.

About Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, part of The Methodist Hospital System and ranked as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For by FORTUNE Magazine, is committed to serving the healthcare needs of our community. The new hospital expansion provides Methodist Sugar Land Hospital some of the most advanced technology and medical capabilities in the area and has maintained the highest quality of care. The Methodist Hospital is known for internationally. The new hospital expands bed capacity and existing services including labor and delivery, critical care, emergency department, surgery, lab and imaging.

For more information on Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, visit www.MethodistSugarLand.com or call 281-274-7500 for a physician referral.



Guillermo Ponce de Leon, M.D. and John Eberhardt