

Pelvic Prolapse

WBNG Health News

Spring 2006

Dr. Dhruv Agneshwar is one of only 300 surgeons in the country trained to perform a new minimally invasive procedure, to treat women suffering from pelvic prolapse. It's called the Gynecare Prolift Technique. It repairs the pelvic floor using a synthetic mesh to support the pelvic organs.

"The traditional operations tend to have a failure rate of about 50 percent and that's probably an underestimate mainly because what the older methods were doing was taking the already weak tissue and trying to put it together. What we're doing now is using a synthetic material that's much stronger than the patients normal tissue that's already there and the long term results so far, it's only been around a few years but so far the results are promising, says Dr. Dhruv Agneshwar, Sante Comprehensive Women's Healthcare."

The Prolift technique requires little hospitalization and less recovery time than traditional surgery. And the procedure is done in less than 2 hours. Dr. Agneshwar has performed at least a dozen prolift's so far. One of his patients, 84 year old Alta Hawley, had the procedure on January 30th.

"I had a prolapsed bladder, the bladder was actually hanging out of the vagina, very, very uncomfortable, no pain, no bleeding or anything like that but it was just very uncomfortable and I knew it had to be taken care of, says Alta Hawley, Town of Union." This was Hawley's 2nd procedure to correct the prolapse. Her first procedure was done using traditional methods. She says she had no pain, and spent only one night in the hospital. Now she's feeling great.

"I can take care of myself, walk around the house and so forth. When it's nice weather like today I can walk outside in my driveway. That sort of thing, says Hawley." Dr. Agneshwar says 50 percent of women over 50 have some sort of pelvic organ prolapse. By age 80, he says more than one in every 10 women will have undergone surgery for prolapse. Symptoms of pelvic prolapse can include loss of bladder control, urinary frequency, feelings of pelvic or vaginal heaviness, and recurrent bladder infections. Women could have symptoms, but not know what it is.

That's why Dr. Agneshwar says it's best to talk with your doctor.