



Aventura Hospital and Medical Center

NEWS RELEASE



Richard Levin, M.D., FACS, launches Kidney-Sparing Cryosurgery at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center

AVENTURA, FL, (August 13, 2008) – **Richard Levin, M.D., FACS**, board certified urologist affiliated with Aventura Hospital and Medical Center, is among the first physicians in South Florida to treat renal cancer with ablation via cryotherapy, and the first to bring this advanced surgery to Aventura Hospital. The procedure, also known as kidney cryosurgery or cryoablation, destroys cancerous tissue by freezing the tumor cells while preserving normal tissue. “Cryoablation is the latest advance in Nephron-Sparing surgery,” said Dr. Levin, “It allows the treatment of suspicious tumors while sparing healthy kidney.” Various treatments for kidney cancer often can result in loss of kidney function, such as bleeding and urine leaks; an average of 12,000 kidney cancer-related deaths occur each year. Nephron (kidney) Sparing surgery is grossly under-utilized, especially at non-academic settings and community hospitals. The entire procedure may be performed through a laparoscope, minimizing pain and time to recovery.

A tremendous team of surgeons was put together for this procedure, including Richard Levin, M.D., primary Urologic surgeon who is highly skilled in laparoscopic urologic surgery, David Grossman, M.D., assistant surgeon and a highly experienced laparoscopic surgeon, and David Schulsinger, M.D., a pioneer of cryosurgery and Director of Endo-urology and Laparoscopy at Stony Brook University in New York, who served as proctor. Mr. Paul Mertz, from Galil Medical, provided the most advanced cryosurgery equipment available and state-of-the-art real time ultrasonic intraoperative monitoring, that allowed continuous evaluation of the kidney tumor during treatment. The operating room team was carefully prepared and did an outstanding job. “This was truly a team effort, involving everyone from the hospital management, to the surgeons, to the operating room team,” expressed Dr. Levin. After surgery, all patients were cared for by Dr. Levin, Dr Grossman and Jeffrey Levy M.D., intensive care specialist, in a coordinated manner. No patient required transfusions or had any complications.

“Cryosurgery offers kidney cancer patients an alternative to total kidney removal, and is the most advanced nephron sparing surgery of the kidney.”, said Dr. Richard Levin, “It also decreases morbidity, pain, and hospital time”. Other benefits of laparoscopic cryosurgery include less blood loss, less scarring, and faster recovery. Cryotherapy is FDA approved and supported by the American Urological Association. It can be performed through traditional open surgery or via laparoscopic surgery using direct vision and ultrasound image guidance. Cancerous cells (malignant tumors) are often eradicated with one treatment, but this lower risk procedure can be repeated if necessary. An estimated 32,000 new kidney cancer cases are expected in the United States within the next year. Many patients may preserve their kidneys with procedures such as Cryosurgical Ablation.

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