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Great Legs: Knee Replacement Designed Specifically for Women

KEVIN PLANCHER, MD, ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

Stamford Hospital



Kevin Plancher, MD, orthopedic surgeon, was interviewed for Channel 12's "12 on Health" after he implanted the women's knee replacement for Mrs. Campana.

Last month, Stamford resident Carmela Campana became one of the first patients in the area to get a brand new knee "designed just for women." The Gender-Solutions High-Flex Knee, the first knee replacement shaped to fit a woman's anatomy, received FDA clearance in May. Kevin Plancher, MD, an orthopedic surgeon at Stamford Hospital, performed the operation for Mrs. Campana Tuesday, June 20. Just two days later, Mrs. Campana was walking up and down the hallway, and even up and down stairs.

According to Dr. Plancher, knee replacement surgeries have become commonplace as arthritis becomes a major health complaint for aging baby boomers. As is often the case in medicine, the conventional knee replacement devices were designed to fit men. "In women, the knee is narrower and the device would overhang a bit," he explains. "It took an engineer to design this, but it makes so much sense. The surgical procedure is exactly the same, but the knee is narrower and a little taller. The result should be less pain and a faster recovery time."