New Spine Center: A Closer Look

This world-class comprehensive spine center offers an innovative approach to the diagnosis and treatment of back pain and spine disorders.

On Monday, Nov. 3, the Marc A. Asher, MD, Comprehensive Spine Center at The University of Kansas Hospital opens to patients. It will provide a complete range of state-of-the-art diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation services in one convenient facility.

Patients can meet with their physicians, undergo diagnostic tests and treatment, and attend therapy sessions without traveling to different locations. The 22,000-square-foot facility has 27 exam rooms, four specialized diagnostic rooms, 11 pre-/post-interventional procedure bays and a 4,000-square-foot outpatient rehabilitation gym.

Lisa Hermes, MD, the center’s medical director, credits her colleagues with establishing the facility’s interdisciplinary, evidence-based and coordinated approach to care. A key focus is communication among providers, with a goal of relieving pain in the most appropriate and safest manner for our patients’ well-being and quality of life.

During their initial visit, patients will likely see a spineologist – a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician. The spineologist evaluates each patient, taking a complete medical history and conducting a physical exam, including any appropriate diagnostic testing.

Under One Roof

If the condition is acute or complex, several specialists will work together to evaluate the patient. When the

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team reaches a diagnosis, the patient receives information on the condition and participates in designing the treatment plan. This may include consults with orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, rehabilitation medicine specialists, neurologists or psychiatrists, as well as physical and occupational therapists or clinical psychologists.

If necessary, various treatment options will be used, including non-surgical therapies, minimally invasive procedures and surgery. To make informed decisions, patients and their families have access to the center's spine learning and resource center. It houses a lending library, models of the human body, support group information and Internet access to spine-related sites.

“Patients come to us with lots of questions, and we want to provide the answers, along with pain relief and support,” said Hermes. “Our goal is to improve quality of life, restore function and educate our patients about long-term spine health.”