PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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Avita’s New Treatment Prevents Esophageal Cancer

GALION – February 6, 2013 – Avita Health System has implemented a new technology that treats Barrett’s Esophagus; a condition where the tissue in the lining of the esophagus is damaged from acid reflux. Dr. James Goudy and Dr. Daryl Sander, both of Galion, are now specially trained in a new “Barrx ablation technology” to treat and cure Barrett’s esophagus.

Individuals with chronic acid reflux are at risk for developing a pre-cancerous condition called Barrett’s esophagus. Barrett’s esophagus has no symptoms, other than the usual complaints caused by acid reflux or heartburn. If left untreated, acid reflux can cause the development of precancerous cells, or Barrett's. In a small percentage of cases, these cells turn into a life-threatening esophageal cancer.

“Barrett’s disease occurs when the esophagus is chronically exposed to gastric contents of the stomach caused by gastroesophageal reflux disease, commonly known as GERD,” states James Goudy, MD. “With prolonged acid exposure, normal cells in the esophagus can undergo a genetic change and are then vulnerable to further changes that can lead to cancer.”
Avita’s Barrx ablation procedure is a 30-minute technique where, during an endoscopy, tissue is heated until it is no longer alive. Ablation technology can completely remove diseased tissue without damaging normal, underlying structures. Although Barrett’s can be removed, this procedure does not cure pre-existing acid reflux. Patients are encouraged to continue seeing their primary care physician for follow-up care and treatment for acid reflux.

Avita Health System has the only hospitals in a 45 mile radius that provide Barrx ablation. It is estimated that 13% of the people who have chronic acid reflux also have Barrett’s esophagus.

For more information on Avita Health System, visit www.avitahealth.org.