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Press Release

(For Immediate Release)

GMH Surgeons Performing Advanced Laparoscopic Procedures

(October 12, 2022; Tamuning, Guam) Dr. Christian Eusebio and Dr. Alexandra Leon Guerrero are performing minimally invasive laparoscopic procedures at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA). Laparoscopic surgery uses small incisions in the abdomen where surgeons can insert a laparoscope, a small tube with a camera and light source, to guide them. The benefits laparoscopic surgery provides to patients include shorter hospital stays, faster recovery, less pain and bleeding following surgery, and reduced scarring.

Laparoscopic surgery is used to treat hernias, perform appendectomies, gallbladder removal, colon surgery, stomach surgery, and fundoplication, a procedure used to treat acid-reflux surgery. “Dr. Alexandra Leon Guerrero and I are performing advanced laparoscopic procedures at GMHA,” said Dr. Eusebio. “We have done numerous foregut procedures like hiatal hernia repairs, fundoplication for acid reflux disease, and colon resections for colon and rectal cancers.”

Laparoscopic surgery is also used to treat obesity and related health issues like diabetes, obstructive sleep apnea, hypertension, heart disease, and stroke. On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, Dr. Eusebio performed the first laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) at GMHA to treat an obese patient with comorbidities. Also called bariatric surgery, Dr. Eusebio has been successfully performing LSGs in Guam since October 2020. His patients have had tremendous success in lowering their weight and more importantly, experienced a remission of most obesity-related comorbidities.

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery agrees bariatric surgery is successful in reducing obesity and treating diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, arthritis, and acid reflux. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), obesity greatly increases the risk of getting cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and other diseases, which are among the top ten causes of death in Guam.

According to the National Institute of Health, there are fewer complications with laparoscopic surgery including a lower incidence of infection, cellulitis, incisional hernia, and dehiscence which occurs when the wound fails to heal properly. GMHA looks forward to Drs. Eusebio and Leon Guerrero expanding the laparoscopic surgery program to benefit patients requiring surgery.

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