



Contact:

Celine Petrossian
818.952.2213

**SURGEON AT Verdugo Hills Hospital PERFORMS The
FIRST LAPAROSCOPIC Sleeve Gastrectomy SURGERY USING A SINGLE INCISION
WITH THE COVIDIEN SILS™ PROCEDURE in Greater Los Angeles Area.**

*Sleeve Gastrectomy –a weight loss surgical procedure- through Belly Button Potentially Leaves
No Visible Scar*

[Glendale, California – September 7, 2010] — Verdugo Hills Hospital announced today the successful completion of its first Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy surgery using the next generation SILS™ procedure. The sleeve gastrectomy, or removal of portion of the stomach, was performed for the treatment of morbid obesity, and was the first of its kind to be completed at Verdugo Hills Hospital, by Dr. Ara Keshishian.

According to Dr. Keshishian, the patient was discharged home a mere 24 hours after surgery, and is doing well. The patient may not even see evidence of the surgery. One of the major advantages of the SILS™ procedure is that it utilizes only one access point, through the patient's umbilicus, or belly button, ultimately resulting in the potential for no visible scar. By comparison, traditional laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy involve four ½-inch or smaller incisions that may leave scars.

With the successful completion of this procedure, Verdugo Hills Hospital is now equipped to offer patients one of the most advanced form of laparoscopic weight loss surgery, specifically SILS™ Sleeve Gastrectomy," said Dr. Keshishian. "We are thrilled to be at the forefront of a new kind of surgery that continues to transform the minimally invasive arena, resulting in even better experiences for patients."

For further information about this procedure please contact 877.365.0156.

About the Hospital:

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. Hospital features include Fast-Track emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. The Hospital also offers surgical services, including bariatric and orthopedic surgeries. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothills’ Best Hospital” by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for five consecutive years. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org.

#