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KNEE IMPLANTS BEND TO GENDER
Launch of revolutionary NEW knee implants, designed just for women

Women's shapes differ from men's on the inside just as they do on the outside. That's why the worldwide leader in orthopaedic solutions, Zimmer®, has designed the first bespoke knee implant for women. Pioneered in the U.S. and now available in the U.K., the Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant is made to fit the different shape and size of women's knees to offer a better-fit solution, provide more natural movement and potentially last longer than a traditional knee implant.

There are three main differences between the Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant and a traditional "unisex" implant, reflecting the typical shape of a female knee:

- A **thinner profile** accommodates the typically less prominent kneecap at the front of a woman's knee, reducing the feeling of 'bulkiness' and associated pain. This potentially results in a greater range of knee motion and more natural movement.
- A **contoured shape** closely matches the narrower anatomy of the female knee and gives a more precise fit. This helps prevent the implant from overhanging the bone and pressing on surrounding ligaments or tendons, which can cause pain.
- An improved design allows for **more natural movement** by accommodating the different alignment between the hip and the knee, which is seen in women. As a result, the knee will work better because the muscles and kneecap are more naturally aligned.

The Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant is being introduced in the U.K. by a group of six consultant orthopaedic surgeons, led by Mr. Howard Ware of Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust and Mr. Michael Moss of Nuffield Hospital Chichester. It is expected to become the implant of choice for both patients and surgeons.

Mr. Howard Ware, consultant orthopaedic surgeon from Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust, comments, "The Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant is an advance in orthopaedics. It replaces the thighbone portion of the knee and is based on years of research showing that a good implant fit is about shape as well as size. This implant

is a step forward for female patients. It is also likely to reduce operating time, since surgeons will no longer have to compromise during surgery to fit a female knee.”

The Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant is available in five different sizes for both the left and the right knee, allowing surgeons to give women a ‘personalised’ knee implant that will feel more natural and may further reduce the incidence of post operative pain.

Mrs. L, from Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, has made history by being the first woman in the UK to receive a Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant. An avid golfer, she found that arthritis in her knee prevented her from enjoying her favourite hobby and opted for a knee replacement using the new implant.

Speaking after her operation, Mrs. L, said, "My new knee implant has improved the quality of my life beyond belief. A couple of months ago I could only walk a few feet and was in constant pain, but now I'm back on my feet making the most of my retirement and enjoying 18 holes of golf with my friends.”

The Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee will be rolled out across the U.K over the next year and with more than 35,000¹ knee replacements carried out on women in England and Wales in 2006, it is set to improve many lives. It is currently available on recommendation from six consultant orthopaedic surgeons at seven centres of excellence: Chase Farm NHS Hospital, Harrogate & District NHS Hospital, Nuffield Hospital Chichester, Nuffield Hospital Harrogate, Nuffield Hospital Tees, Nuffield Hospital Warwick and Kings Oak BMI Hospital.

Further information on the Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant can be found at www.zimmer.co.uk.

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Notes to Editors:

References:

1. National Joint registry <http://www.njrcentre.org.uk>. Please note that the NJR doesn't cover every hospital in the U.K

For more information on the Zimmer® *Gender Solutions*™ knee implant, to speak to a surgeon or to obtain implant, surgeon or case study imagery/photography, please contact:

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