

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Women & Children's Hospital Now Offers New
Advancement to Treat Chronic Heartburn**
*Dr. Keith Chung performing new incisionless procedure to help
remedy gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)*

LAKE CHARLES, LA – Women & Children's Hospital (WCH) is collaborating with Keith Chung, MD, a board certified general surgeon and independent member of the WCH medical staff, to offer patients a non-invasive treatment for GERD better known as chronic heartburn.

Dr. Chung is the only physician in the Lake Charles area and one of only a few in the State of Louisiana to use the Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF) procedure using a natural orifice surgical device to innovatively treat gastroesophageal reflux disease through the mouth without an incision.

The American Gastroenterological Association reports that more than 60 million Americans experience heartburn/GERD symptoms at least once each month. GERD is a chronic reflux of stomach acid into the esophagus. It can cause complications including esophagitis, esophageal ulcers, hoarseness, chronic pulmonary disease and Barrett's esophagus, a change in the lining of the esophagus that increases the risk of developing cancer of the esophagus.

"We are very excited to offer this procedure at Women and Children's Hospital," said Dr. Chung. "In a healthy patient, there's a natural valve between the esophagus and the stomach that forms a physical barrier to prevent stomach fluids from back washing, or 'refluxing' up into the esophagus. In patients with chronic GERD, this valve has become dysfunctional. The TIF procedure reconstructs the valve to prevent reflux. It's based on the same principles of conventional, more invasive laparoscopic GERD surgery, but TIF's advantage is that it is incisionless," says Dr. Chung.

The procedure does not require an incision because it reaches the stomach via the esophagus through the mouth. This greatly improves the quality of life for patients by eliminating the need for incisions, shortening recovery times, reducing the dependence on GERD medication and allowing patients to consume the foods and beverages they previously avoided.

Dr. Chung will offer a free educational seminar on Tuesday, June 22 at 6:00 pm in the WCH First Floor Classroom, located at 4200 Nelson Rd. For more information and to register for the seminar call 337-475-4075.

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About Women & Children's Hospital: Women & Children's Hospital (WCH) is a full-service acute care hospital located at 4200 Nelson Road, Lake Charles, LA 70605. WCH is the area's preferred leader for Women's Services and offers inpatient, outpatient, medical and surgical care for men, women and children. WCH is a recognized Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence and is equipped with a 24-hour, physician-staffed Emergency Department and a Level 3 Neonatal ICU. For more information about WCH, visit www.women-childrens.com.