



# High-Definition for High-Level Care

By Diana LaChance

Most people associate the term “high definition” with their favorite TV shows. But the same technology that brings high-resolution images into your living room is also being used by Crestwood Medical Center to make surgical procedures faster and safer.

Last spring, Crestwood added 13 new 1080p high-definition Stryker video carts to their operating rooms. The specs: Stryker carts use a third-generation high-definition video platform that includes the 1288 HD 3-Chip® Camera, the L9000 LED Light Source, and the WiSe™ HD Wireless Platform.

The result is increased resolution and visual accuracy that improves the safety and efficiency of minimally invasive laparoscopic surgeries.

“In short, these carts allow more people to have laparoscopic surgery and to avoid an open procedure, which poses higher risks for complications and infection,” says Dr. Peter Vevon, a general surgeon at Crestwood. “We can still do procedures without the new video carts, but using them has made it safer for the patient.”

That is especially true for patients with underlying issues that may have made them previously ineligible for minimally invasive surgery. By way of example, Vevon tells the story of a recent patient who consulted him about removing internal scarring she had as a result of three major abdominal surgeries.

“In the past, she would have been converted to an open procedure,” says Vevon. “But with the new video cart, I was able to remove the scar tissue laparoscopically and she was able to go home that day.”

Vevon remembers when basic laparoscopic surgeries were first performed on gall bladders back in 1990. Over the years, he has witnessed improvements like smaller scopes and enhanced optics, which have allowed surgeons to work on everything from spleens and kidneys to the adrenal glands.

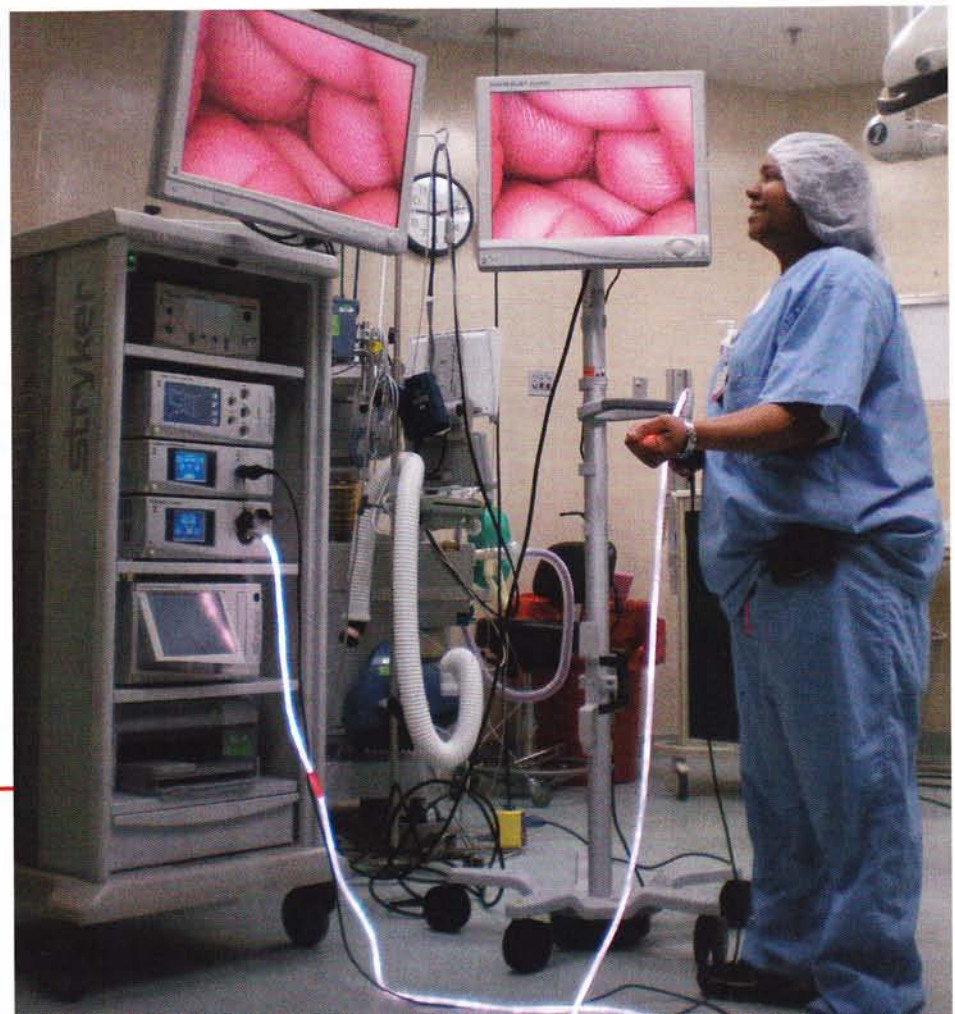
“In the beginning, the technology grew in leaps and bounds,” he says. “Today, it’s more tweaks.” Indeed, these video carts themselves aren’t a radical departure from the technology used previously, says Dr. Vevon. “But now we can perform more difficult procedures. The catalyst is simply better and safer technology.”

Vevon and his colleagues spent almost a year evaluating a number of different brands, a process he likens to shopping

for a new computer. “You’re not going to want to get something with technology from the 1990s if you can get something with technology from 2010,” he says. “When equipment needs to be replaced, you want to replace it with the best and safest option for the patient that lets you do the procedure most efficiently.”

Crestwood was one of the first hospitals to adopt this technology, though others have since followed suit. “We raise the bar and then our competitors raise the bar,” says Vevon. “This is a tough medical community with a lot of competition, so we always have to be on the cutting edge.”

That’s good news for the patients, more of whom now have the option of a minimally invasive procedure that will get them back to their own high-definition TVs a lot faster!



April Hodges, Central Sterile Coordinator at Crestwood, demonstrates the high-definition clarity of the new Stryker video carts.