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**CONTACT:** Stephanie Zinn  
231.924.1602

**NEW CATARACT REMOVAL SYSTEM  
ACQUIRED AT GERBER MEMORIAL HEALTH SERVICES (GMHS)**

**FREMONT, MI** - Gerber Memorial Hospital recently announced the purchase of the *INFINITI Vision System* for cataract removal.

The device, called a phacoemulsifier, uses ultrasonic energy to safely break up and remove the cataract through a tiny incision that rarely requires a stitch. The new system provides greater safety and is easier to use, according to Marianne Patten, RN, MSN, Director of Surgical Services for GMHS. "Our staff has found the machine is easier to use than our old system," Patten said, adding the device can be readied for surgery faster as well.

Eye Surgeon, David Barrett, M.D., of Grand Rapids Ophthalmology, uses the system and has been pleased with its performance. "The hospital has made a

significant investment in this new technology and it will carry us well into the future, Barrett observed, adding, “the machine is easier and safer to use. It’s a major advance in technology that substantially improves the surgical experience for the patient.”

The purchase of the *INFINITI Vision System* is a part of the move to provide enhanced technology to the state-of-the-art operating rooms at the hospital. This new system is the latest in technology for cataract surgery. “We truly have a modern facility here,” Patten stated, adding “patients in this area are very well served.”

A new technology included as part of the INFINITI, removes the cataract more efficiently and can reduce the incision by 25%.

John Oltean, D.O., of Shoreline Ophthalmology, whose group also performs cataract surgery at Gerber Memorial, was especially pleased when he heard the hospital had made the purchase. “We’re getting these incisions to a point where, without stitches, we can reduce the possibility of infection, and there is quicker healing time and less swelling. It’s a safer technology for performing more complex surgeries, which we can now do at Gerber Memorial.”

The *INFINITI Vision System* is the most widely used cataract removal system in the United States, according to Alcon Surgical, Inc., Ft. Worth, TX which manufactures the device.

***What causes cataracts?*** Scientists suspect several culprits, including aging, smoking, diabetes and excessive exposure to sunlight. Cataracts can also develop soon after an eye injury or years later. The most common type of cataract results from aging and affects over half of people over the age of 65. And cataracts affect men, women of all races and ethnic groups equally. Over two (2) million cataract procedures are performed each year in the United States, mostly on an outpatient basis under mild sedation. During the procedure the surgeon removes the cloudy human lens and replaces it with an artificial implant to restore vision.

The new technology offers Gerber Memorial a system that can be improved with upgrades in years ahead, Patten noted, adding that the hospital will not need to purchase a new machine to remain current with advances in technology.

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