

# Dr. Rice Performs PA's First Medtronic Talent Endograft

(May 22, 2008) Lewistown, PA - Philip L. Rice, MD, FACS, recently performed the first minimally invasive insertion of a Medtronic Talent Stent Graft in Pennsylvania. The Medtronic Talent endograft was approved for use in the United States beginning May 1, 2008.

Dr. Rice performed the procedure May 2, 2008, on an 84-year old male with oxygen dependent severe lung disease and a painful 7 cm aneurysm. Dr. Rice remarked, "I have performed minimally invasive EVAR procedures for about 10 years. The new Medtronic Talent graft extends the benefits of a less invasive procedure to the sickest of our patients with larger aneurysms." He continued, "I am pleased to be able to offer this latest advanced technology to the surrounding counties we serve."

An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a dangerous bulge or weakening of the body's main artery that can rupture with fatal consequences if left untreated. This type of aneurysm is present in an estimated 1.2 million people and responsible for approximately 15,000 annual deaths in the United States,

The most common cause of aortic aneurysms is "hardening of the arteries" or arteriosclerosis. The arteriosclerosis can weaken the aortic wall and the pressure of blood being pumped through the aorta causes expansion at the site of the weakness.

Most abdominal aortic aneurysms produce no symptoms. They are often incidentally discovered when abdominal ultrasounds and/or CAT scan studies are ordered for other conditions. Pain in the back or abdomen is the most common symptom. The pain typically has a deep quality as if it is boring into the lower back or abdomen.

Dr. Rice is certified by the American Boards of Surgery and Thoracic Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Cardiology, and the American College of Chest Physicians. He is the only Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation, RPVI, in the region and is the medical director of the ICAVL certified Lewistown Hospital Vascular Lab. His current interests are in minimally invasive vascular surgery, vascular diagnosis, and community models for vascular disease prevention.