

# Dr. Cummins performing TIF procedure

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LUBBOCK — Covenant Health announced new data from the Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication US Registry presented at the 2013 SAGES Annual Meeting; Dr. Douglas G. Cummins of Covenant Health Plainview provides the TIF procedure option to patients that suffer from gastroesophageal reflux disease.



**CUMMINS**

The TIF procedure was safe and effective in eliminating or improving a range of typical and atypical GERD symptoms, including heartburn and reflux, in up to 81 percent of patients in the study. Also, in 81 percent of patients undergoing endoscopy 24 months after their TIF procedure, esophagitis was fully healed or notably improved.

“The TIF Registry data dem-

onstrates the long-term value of a transoral anatomic correction in the treatment of GERD patients with mild to moderate disease. The sustained response was seen by patients with either typical or atypical symptoms in this prospective multicenter registry of patients with chronic GERD,” said Dr. Cummins.

Twenty-four months after the EsophyX2 device was used in TIF procedures, more than two-thirds of patients completely eliminated the need for daily proton pump inhibitor therapy. Symptom control achieved at six months remained stable over time indicating durability of TIF procedure.

The TIF procedure is a viable option due to the dramatic shift in the risk-reward profile associated with correcting the underlying anatomical failure and allows a majority of patients to stop taking daily medication for reflux,” continued Dr. Cummins.

The risks associated with

medical management of GERD patients for years or decades are becoming more evident. Traditional surgical interventions for GERD have historically been reserved for patients with the most severe disease. However, most patients have been unwilling to accept the well-documented side effects of difficulty swallowing and gas bloat associated with traditional surgery. In stark contrast, the TIF procedure offers an alternative option to select GERD patients because almost none of these side effects occurred in the TIF registry population.

The TIF procedure was also highlighted during these SAGES sessions:

- Reginald Bell, M.D., of Swedish Medical Center, presented “Emerging Technologies and Techniques” during the Postgraduate Course Foregut Beyond GERD and Hiatal Hernia on April 17

- Erik Wilson, M.D., of Me-

morial Hermann Healthcare, presented “Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF), is the procedure here to stay?” during the Postgraduate Course Endoluminal Treatments — GERD and POEM on April 18

Covenant Health is the largest health care institution in the region with 1,077 licensed beds, more than 5,000 employees and a medical staff of more than 600 physicians at its cornerstone facilities. Covenant is a member of St. Joseph Health System in Orange County and serves a 62-county area spanning West Texas and eastern New Mexico, with a population in excess of 1.2 million. Learn more about Covenant Health at [www.covenanthealth.org](http://www.covenanthealth.org).

The EsophyX device was FDA cleared in 2007, and is commercially available in the United States. Inserted transorally with visual guidance from an endoscope, the EsophyX device is used in the TIF procedure to

reconstruct the gastroesophageal valve (GEV), restoring its competency and reestablishing the barrier to reflux. TIF is a surgical solution that corrects the root cause of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) — a disease that affects over 60 million people in the U.S. The TIF procedure is based on traditional surgical principles is minimally invasive and offers similar effectiveness to a surgical repair with the safety profile of a transoral approach. To date, more than 10,000 patients have been treated worldwide. For more information, visit [www.GERDHelp.com](http://www.GERDHelp.com).

EndoGastric Solutions, Inc. ([www.endogastricsolutions.com](http://www.endogastricsolutions.com)), headquartered in Redwood City, Calif., is a leader in the endoluminal treatment of digestive diseases. EGS’ mission is to utilize the most current wisdom in gastroenterology and surgery to develop procedures and products that address unmet needs in gastrointestinal diseases.