



Newsbriefs

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FAR RIGHT:

Dr. Jay Jagannathan, neurosurgeon, is one of 23 active physicians on the medical staff at WBRMC.

WBRMC recognizes physicians for National Doctors' Day

West Branch Regional Medical Center will recognize Doctor's Day and the important role its physician play in the success of the organization on March 28. The official observance is March 30.

Each physician will receive a gift and a coupon for a meal in the café.

The national observance was created in 1933 in Georgia to celebrate the contribution of physicians who serve the country by caring for its citizens.

On March 30, 1958, a resolution commemorating Doc-

tors' Day was adopted by the United States House of Representatives. In 1990, legislation was introduced in the House and Senate to establish a national Doctor's Day.

Following overwhelming approval by the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, on October 30, 1990, President George Bush signed legislation designating March 30 as "National Doc-



tor's Day."

"I commend our medical staff for its hard work and tireless dedication to our hospital and our community," said Ed Napierala, chief executive officer.

WBRMC first in region to use new eye stent with glaucoma patients

Eye surgeon Dr. Daryl Zelenak of Bay Eye Care last week began using the iStent® Trabecular Micro-Bypass Stent as a treatment option to reduce eye pressure for patients with both cataracts and glaucoma. West Branch Regional Medical Center is the only hospital in the region using this new device.

The iStent is FDA-approved for use in conjunction with cataract surgery to reduce eye pressure in adult patients with mild-to-moderate open-angle glaucoma currently being treated with glaucoma medicine.

In clinical trials, iStent has been shown to safely reduce eye pressure, which is the primary cause of open-angle glaucoma.

"This is great news for people who have both a cataract and glaucoma," said Dr. Zelenak. "The eye drops used to treat glaucoma can be difficult to administer and expensive. With iStent, many patients will need less medicine to control their eye pressure and some may not need prescription eye drops at all."

iStent is the smallest medical device ever approved by the FDA and is placed in

a patient's eye during cataract surgery.

"It is so small you are unable to see or feel it after the procedure is done," he said. "Although you won't even know iStent is there, it will be working to help reduce your eye pressure."

Implanting the iStent does not significantly extend the length of time the patient spends in surgery and has a similar safety profile to cataract surgery alone.

Studies have shown that more than 90% of patients do not comply with their ocular medication dosing regimens and nearly 50%

discontinue their medications before 6 months.

"This can be a serious problem. When pressure in the eye is out of control, it can increase the risk for permanent vision loss," Dr. Zelenak said. "I consider iStent an important advancement in protecting against vision loss for my glaucoma patients."



Dr. Daryl Zelenak