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South Florida

September 22, 2006

## Palmetto General Launches New Heart Institute

**HIALEAH, Fla.** -- After years of legal fighting to get a full-service heart program in Hialeah, Palmetto General Hospital officially launched its new heart institute on Friday.

The institute has a wireless operating room, equipment that responds to voice commands, and monitors and cameras that will make it possible to follow surgery more closely.

Two "smart" operating rooms in the heart institute are designed to make open heart surgery easier for the doctor, nurses and the patient.

"Everything is computer driven," said Dr. Peter Segurola. "By one click, the machines become configured to my needs and to that patient's needs."

Segurola is the medical director of the heart institute.

Among the patient benefits, only a small incision will be needed to retrieve leg veins to be used for heart bypass.

"The machine harvests the veins and radial arteries, minimally invasive," he said.

Cardiac patients will have their own intensive care unit where they will stay throughout the different stages of recovery.

"The patient comes to the operating room. The patient goes back to the unit, to their same bed. Now, it's an ICU bed. They start rehab and it's the same room, same unit," Segurola said.

Cardiac catheterization is also available for patients who don't need open heart surgery.

Nurses and doctors are now being trained on how to use the new equipment. The heart institute at **Palmetto General** will start treating patients in mid-October.