

# Physician Forum

Excellence Above All

## PELVIC RING AND ACETABULUM SURGERY

Successful treatment of fractures of the pelvis and acetabulum require highly specialized skills. As a leader in Orthopaedic medicine, Jewish Hospital is now providing surgical reconstruction of the pelvis and acetabulum through the medical expertise of orthopaedic surgeon, Jonathan Yerasimides, M.D. Dr. Yerasimides recently completed a one-year fellowship dedicated exclusively to surgery of the pelvis and acetabulum. He studied under renowned expert, Joel Matta, M.D., and is one of only a few physicians in the country with his level of expertise.

### Reconstruction of the acetabulum

When a tremendous force is applied through the femur, most often because of an automobile accident or fall from a great height, it can drive the femoral head into the socket, causing a fracture of the acetabulum. "With acetabulum fractures, the smooth cartilage surface is broken and often uneven," explained Dr. Yerasimides. "If left alone, this will create an irregular surface for the femoral head to rotate against, leading to destruction of the joint and severe arthritis. Ultimately, joint replacement becomes necessary. Successful treatment of acetabulum fractures depends on restoring the smooth surface of the hip joint. This is best accomplished with reconstructive surgery."

In the past, treatment usually consisted of bed rest and traction applied to the injured leg. While this prevented further displacement of the fractured bone, it did not reposition the bone appropriately and create a

smooth surface within the joint. A surgical solution was often avoided because the procedure was complex and often fraught with complications. Now, however, greater understanding and improved techniques have made surgery the preferred option. "Most experts report an 80 percent success rate in preserving the joint," said Dr. Yerasimides. "If you repair it correctly from the beginning, you can preserve the natural hip and prevent the need for joint replacement."

### Restoration of the pelvic ring

Another injury that is usually caused by high-energy trauma and can lead to serious complications is pelvic fracture. Because of the ring-shaped structure of the pelvis, fractures usually occur in more than one place. As Dr. Yerasimides explained, "People who suffer these fractures can end up with chronic pain or substantial discrepancies in leg length. Nerves that control bowel, bladder or sexual function may also be injured. Successful treatment requires the accurate reduction of the fracture to restore congruity of the pelvic ring and prevent lifelong problems for the patient."

For more information about acetabulum or pelvic surgery, contact Dr. Yerasimides' office at (502) 587-8222 or Kim Hite, assistant vice president for orthopaedics at Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare, at (502) 582-7637.

Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare  
**Physician/Hospital Development**  
250 E. Liberty Street, Suite 201  
Louisville, KY 40202  
(502) 568-6655 [www.jhsmh.org](http://www.jhsmh.org)

