

## **Alexian Brothers Medical Center Announces First U.S. Double Implant of New Heart Valve**

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ELK GROVE VILLAGE, Ill. -- Alexian Brothers Medical Center announced today the nation's first double implant of the new Biocor stented tissue valve. The first U.S. double implant of the device was performed on August 17, 2005 at Alexian Brothers Medical Center, located in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. The recipient was an 85 year-old male patient from Elgin, Illinois.

St. Jude Medical Inc., the Minnesota-based company that manufactures the device, received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for the new valve just this month.

"The patient is resting comfortably and recovering as expected," according to Dr. Yan Katsnelson, the cardiothoracic surgeon who performed the procedure. "I was very pleased with the ease of implantability. The device's track record of durability in other countries gives me confidence that the valves will continue to deliver excellent performance for the patient for years to come."

Tissue valves, also called biological valves, are made of tissue, but also have some artificial parts to provide additional support and allow the valve to be sewn in place. Tissue valves, which have long had clinical acceptance in Europe and Canada, are made from pig (porcine), or cow (bovine) tissue. In comparison to the mechanical valve, the tissue valve does not require patients to take blood thinners, unless they have other conditions such as atrial fibrillation, which require these medications.

Dr. Aladin Mariano, a cardiovascular surgeon who assisted in last week's milestone surgery, explained that this latest technology involves an extremely complicated, high risk, surgical procedure that only a few hospitals in Illinois have the expertise to perform. "The ability to do simultaneous aortic and mitral tissue valve replacement offers hope for many patients who may otherwise may have none. These high-tech emerging products are changing the face of cardiac surgery around the world."

For additional information visit [www.alexian.org](http://www.alexian.org)