



Courtesy FH Group

## First ARROW Shoulder Implanted In U.S.

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**T**he first implant of the ARROW shoulder prosthesis in the U.S. took place on July 19 in Dover, New Jersey. Dr. Steven Stecker performed the surgery, which had been approved by the FDA just eight months before. A week later a surgeon performed a similar shoulder surgical first in Australia.

Stecker, who received specialized ARROW training in France, said he was pleased with the shoulder system and the outcome of the surgery.

**I was quite impressed with the instrumentation, the ease of use and the anatomic variability it supports and can recreate.**

Developed by the venerable French orthopedic device company Fournitures Hospitalières Group (better known as FH Orthopedics), the ARROW is the first universal system for shoulder arthroplasty that allows surgeons to implant a reverse or anatomical prosthesis using the same set of instruments. FH executives say that the ARROW shoulder system is a simple technique that allows patients a greater range of motion and a faster recovery from surgery.

Zeev Walny, FH regional sales director, and product expert Beatrice Maylie, from the company's headquarters in Mulhouse, France, were both present in New Jersey for the surgery. "It was a very important step for FH Orthopedics in the U.S. and for the ARROW shoulder," Walny said.

Eric Hermann, managing director of the U.S. subsidiary of FH Orthopedics, noted that

**The universal system uses a single instrument tray which makes it easily reproducible.**

Additional features of the ARROW shoulder system include a single angle for the neck cut, one single humeral stem fracture, hemi, total and reverse surgery.

The Arrow shoulder was first introduced in Europe in 2003. The shoulder prosthesis has since been successfully implanted in patients in over 10 countries, from the U.K. to Argentina. Originally, Fournitures Hospitalières was exclusively a distribution company in France for small medical equipment. The company began supplying orthopedic products 40 years ago and began to manufacture its own implants after a succession of acquisitions and buy-outs in 1984, 1991 and 1995 (the French companies QUARTEX, OMCI and LUER, respectively).

Since the 2000's, the Company has increasingly focused exclusively on orthopedics and has become, in the last few years, one of the leading European based orthopedic product manufacturers and suppliers. Among its customers, FH is known for excellence in design and an obsessive commitment to surgeon support. The company's U.S. subsidiary was established in 2002.

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