

**PRESS RELEASE:**

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**New surgery without incisions now available for chronic heartburn and reflux**

*(Hendersonville, N.C.)* Daniel Timmerman, D.O., a local surgeon, has performed North Carolina's first Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication procedure, or TIF, at Pardee Hospital.

"The TIF procedure can significantly improve the quality of life for our patients," said Dr. Timmerman. "Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) is an anatomical problem which needs an anatomical solution. Reflux medication can help to relieve patients' heartburn symptoms but don't solve the underlying anatomical problems or prevent further disease progression."

The TIF procedure is based on the established principles of surgical repair of the anti-reflux barrier, except that it is performed transorally (through the mouth). The procedure reduces hiatal hernia and creates a valve between the stomach and esophagus restoring the natural, physiological anatomy to prevent reflux. Because the procedure is incisionless, there is reduced pain, reduced recovery and no visible scar.

"Recent studies show that TIF can reduce patients' dependency on medications with 79 percent of patients remaining off of their daily medications after two years and experiencing a dramatic improvement in their quality of life," said Dr. Timmerman. "With





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[www.pardeehospital.org](http://www.pardeehospital.org)

millions of Americans suffering with daily symptoms of reflux, we are very excited to be able to offer our patients the same incredible benefits as more invasive procedures without incisions.”

[Pardee Hospital](http://www.pardeehospital.org) is a not-for-profit community hospital founded in 1953. The main hospital is licensed for 222 acute care beds and is the second largest employer in [Henderson County](http://www.pardeehospital.org). The hospital has several locations separate from the main campus, including an adult day services center, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a rehab and wellness center, a midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices, and an urgent care facility. For more information or to find a physician, call 1-866-790-WELL (9355) or visit [www.pardeehospital.org](http://www.pardeehospital.org).

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