

World Class Care, Collaboration and Communication lead to a Speedy Recovery for Colon Cancer Patient



Eve Becker with daughter Elaine, grandchildren Ryan and Rachel, and son-in-law David Rutkowski

For 85-year-old Eve Becker of Erie, surgery for colon cancer in June could have meant major incisions to remove the tumor, other areas of the lower colon and perform a gynecological surgery as well.

Instead, three Saint Vincent surgeons collaborated during the same surgery, using laparoscopic and other techniques in a procedure that is totally new to Erie. The result? Eve had only five small incisions that were one-fourth to one-quarter of an inch in length.

The surgery was performed collaboratively by Saint Vincent colon/rectal surgeons

Patrick Recio, DO, and Philip Kondylis, MD, and with Saint Vincent gynecologist Diane Adams, DO, of Erie OB/GYN.

Eve's continuum of care also included Saint Vincent oncology nurses and her internist, Kimberly Thompson, MD. Eve was able to return home within a week of her surgery.

Drs. Recio and Kondylis are the region's only board-certified colon/rectal surgeons who perform completely laparoscopic procedures.

"This multispecialty approach is how cases similar to this are handled at major university health care centers," says Dr. Recio. "Without the expertise here at Saint Vincent, patients

would likely have to leave the region for this type of surgery. They can receive world-class care, right here in Erie."

Eve's daughter, Dr. Elaine Rutkowski, a registered nurse and professor of nursing at California State University, Fullerton, couldn't agree more.

"The capability to do the procedure laparoscopically is what got my mom on board," Rutkowski says. "For my part, I was thrilled that Dr. Recio communicated with me about mother's care from across the country via numerous text messages back and forth ... even on weekends! He was totally accessible and amazingly very clear with what he could offer my mother in the way of surgical options."

Rutkowski reports that her mom is recovering beautifully and is even driving!

"She has triumphed. She embodies what I teach my nursing students about resilience," Rutkowski says. ♦

COUNT ON SAINT VINCENT TO BE THERE
To learn more about laparoscopic colon and rectal surgery, call 814-453-2777.

Saint Vincent Earns Three Prestigious Awards

So far, in 2010, Saint Vincent has been honored with three important awards, recognizing its quality care.

■ **The Premier Award for Quality:** Saint Vincent was one of only 21 hospitals in the nation to earn this award from the Premier healthcare alliance and one of only two to have earned the award for each of the three years it has been presented.

■ **The Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip ReplacementSM** from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

■ **The 2010 Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation Employer Recognition:** Saint Vincent, with more than 25 certified oncology nurses, is proud to have been recognized among the top cancer institutions in the country.

