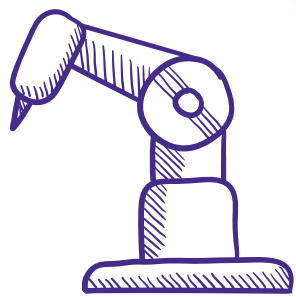


MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach is Only Second Hospital in U.S. to Offer ExcelsiusGPS® Surgical Technology for Kids



Expert Advice From:
Emory Chang, M.D., pediatric orthopedic surgeon, (top), and Peter Hahn, M.D., pediatric orthopedic surgeon, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Drs. Emory Chang and Peter Hahn are two of only three pediatric orthopedic surgeons in the U.S. who are specially trained in a new robotic-navigation technology, called ExcelsiusGPS®.

Utilized primarily to treat young scoliosis patients at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, the ExcelsiusGPS system uses a guided arm to target a specific region of the spine, enabling surgeons to accurately conduct spine surgery with pinpoint precision. The process is similar to drivers using GPS technology to map routes in their vehicles.

"This system provides pediatric orthopedic surgeons with smart, innovative technology for safe and accurate screw placement," Dr. Hahn explains. "We're always looking for the next technology to improve our techniques; we use freehand, guided, and computer navigation techniques to treat degenerative spine conditions, and the newest technology is robotic."

"Spine surgery is always evolving," he notes. "Robotic technology is on the cutting edge, giving us the strongest methods to correct deformities and the highest safety profiles."

Drs. Chang and Hahn estimate that up to 95 percent of the spine surgeries performed on children at Miller Children's & Women's are for scoliosis, but other spine issues are treated as well. About one to five percent of children experience scoliosis; typical surgical patients are between 11-and 16-year-old.

Dr. Hahn and Dr. Chang are part of the Orthopedic Center at Miller Children's & Women's. They treat all general pediatric orthopedic conditions and take special interest in sports medicine, pediatric spine/hip disorders, cerebral palsy, foot/ankle disorders, and orthopedic trauma.

"In pediatric spine surgery, the screw has been one of the strongest tools we have to correct deformities," Dr. Hahn explains. The ExcelsiusGPS system allows spine surgeons to gain control of the spine as they use a three-point fixation tool to fix however many screws the patient needs to help heal their

- spine deformities. "We're trying to increase the safety profile for patients who have spinal cord and nerve root injuries."
- Dr. Chang says that spinal surgeons have an exceedingly small margin for error as they navigate a narrow diameter in which to place the spinal screws. On either side are "danger elements," including delicate nerves that can be damaged. "With robotics, your 'arrow' flies through a narrow tube and is exact every time, increasing accuracy and safety."
- Parents of children with scoliosis or other spine issues should consider having their kids treated by Miller Children's & Women's because of the wide range of experience and the hundreds of surgeries the team performs on children with these conditions.
- "If you have kids with spinal deformities or issues, you want to choose the foremost pediatric orthopedic surgeons, not random adult orthopedists," Dr. Chang advises. "Adult orthopedic surgeons are focused on degenerative issues, which is different from pediatric orthopedic surgeons, who are dealing routinely with children whose spines are growing and deforming at the same time."
- In addition to its experienced pediatric orthopedic surgeons, children with spinal issues are treated by a comprehensive team of pediatric intensive care physicians, nurses, physical therapists, social workers, child life specialists and others offering physical, spiritual and psychological care.
- "Surgery happens in one day," notes Dr. Hahn, "but recovery can take up to a year. When they come to us, children and their parents are getting this entire team offering excellent care."

Visit Us!

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach
2801 Atlantic Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90806

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