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**SURGEON OFFERS TREATMENT OPTIONS  
FOR GALLBLADDER DISEASE**

**MOUNT PLEASANT, PA, April 8, 2010** ... For such a small organ, the gallbladder can cause a lot of problems. Every year, about 800,000 people in the United States are hospitalized for painful gallstones — rock-like crystals as small as grains of sand or as big as golf balls. They form from hardened bile, a substance needed for digestion. While gallstones are the most commonly known type of gallbladder disease, a person can have gallbladder disease without gallstones - including inflammation, infection, or blockage (obstruction) of the gallbladder. Often, this may mean surgical removal of the gallbladder.

John Domit, MD, a board certified general surgeon on staff at Excelsa Health Frick Hospital, will present “*Surgical Treatment of Gallbladder Disease*”, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 28, Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Fourth Floor, Frick Hospital,.

He will discuss the incidence and types of gallbladder disease, its causes and symptoms, diagnostic testing such as nuclear medicine scans, traditional and laparoscopic surgical procedures, as well as recovery and life after surgery,

According to Dr. Domit, surgical advancement using laparoscopic techniques provides quicker recovery, less pain and a less visible scar than in the past.

“Before laparoscopic techniques gallbladder surgery usually meant open surgery, a five- to eight-inch scar, and a two- to seven-day stay in the hospital,”

For a laparoscopic operation, the surgeon makes a tiny cut in the abdomen and inserts a laparoscope. This is a thin tube with a tiny video camera at the end. The camera shows large images on a video monitor, helping the surgeon see the

affected area. The surgeon uses tiny instruments to make a few more small cuts, and then carefully removes the gallbladder. Usually, patients can go home the same day.

The gallbladder is a sac located under the liver. It stores and concentrates bile produced in the liver. Bile aids in the digestion of fat, and is released from the gallbladder into the upper small intestine in response to food (especially fats). Surgery is done to remove the gallbladder if it is inflamed, blocked, filled with gallstones, or cancerous.

Some common signs and symptoms of gallbladder disease can include a steady gripping or gnawing pain in the upper right abdomen near the rib cage, which can be severe and can radiate to the upper back; fever, chills, nausea and vomiting. Other symptoms can include chronic diarrhea (four to 10 bowel movements every day) for at least three months, jaundice (yellowish skin), dark urine, lighter stools, or both, rapid heartbeat and abrupt blood pressure drop.

According to Dr. Domit, complaints of gas, nausea, and abdominal discomfort after meals are the most common symptoms, but sometimes they are vague and difficult to distinguish from similar complaints in people who do not have gallbladder disease.

“Regardless, if you are experiencing any of these symptoms, it’s important to see your doctor to rule out gallbladder disease.”

Pre-registration for the program is requested by calling the Excelsa Health Call Center, 1-877-771-1234, or enrolling online at [www.excelahealth.org](http://www.excelahealth.org).