

Contact:
Jeff Jacomowitz
Beth Israel Medical Center
(212) 523-6069

One Out Of Three Women Suffer From Stress Urinary Incontinence
*New Outpatient Treatment at Beth Israel Medical Center Offers Options and Helps
Restore Continence and Quality of Life*

New York, NY — March 1, 2010 – A simple and safe procedure designed to reduce invasiveness and enhance patient recovery for women suffering from stress urinary incontinence (SUI) is now being offered by urologists affiliated with Beth Israel Medical Center.

Over 33 million women worldwide are affected by stress urinary incontinence (SUI), a condition in which activities such as coughing, sneezing, or heavy lifting put pressure on the bladder, resulting in unintentional loss of urine. SUI is more common in women than men, and is caused by weakening of pelvic floor muscles often tied to tissue and nerve damage resulting from pregnancy, childbirth, radiation, hormone changes or a prior surgery.

MiniArc is the latest generation of incontinence solutions manufactured by American Medical Systems (AMS), a worldwide leader in women's pelvic health solutions. The physician surgically places a narrow strip of mesh material—called a sling—under the urethra to give it a point of support. This procedure is minimally invasive with only one small incision. Unlike other sling procedures, MiniArc incorporates proven mesh that has been used in more than 400,000 procedures.

“MiniArc's simple, elegant design makes it very easy to use, and its slim needle profile allows for precise placement of the sling under the urethra for excellent support,” says Sovrin Shah, MD, from the Sol and Margraet berger Department of Urology at Beth Israel and a principle practitioner of MiniArc. “Most women are able to return to their daily routine shortly after the procedure.

“With MiniArc, the potential is great to restore the lifestyle a patient enjoyed prior to incontinence,” says Dr. Shah. “It is a simple procedure for physicians to perform, and yet it is life changing for many patients. I am enthusiastic about adding MiniArc to my offerings for patients.”