



**St. Elizabeth's Hospital  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**St. Elizabeth's Delivers Safer, Less Invasive  
Surgery to Brain Tumor Patients**

**Belleville, IL** – October 14, 2008 –St. Elizabeth's Hospital in conjunction with the Southern Illinois Brain and Spine Center have been using VectorVision® cranial for image-guided brain surgery, providing surgeons with safer and less invasive access to brain tumors, vascular abnormalities, and other intra-cranial targets.

VectorVision® cranial is a powerful image-guided navigation system with a touch-screen monitor and two cameras that emit infrared signals, used to determine the patient's position in the operating room. The signals are also used to pinpoint the position of the surgical instruments in relation to the patient's head. Forming a connection between diagnostic data from a CT or MRI and the patient's anatomy, VectorVision<sup>2</sup> offers pre-programmed screen configurations, advanced 3-dimensional navigation, and easy-to-use biopsy software.

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“St. Elizabeth’s Hospital’s goal is to continuously offer patients comprehensive treatment options with less invasive procedures using the most advanced technologies,” said Dr. Nicholas Poulos, Neurosurgeon, Southern Illinois Brain and Spine.

“VectorVision® cranial is enabling us to deliver on that promise. Our surgeons are able to better plan their surgeries which results in safer procedures and faster patient recovery times.”

With VectorVision® cranial, surgeons can more precisely plan the incision for ideal access to the tumor, as well as follow their instrument movements on the computer screen in real-time during the operation. Instruments are continuously visualized relative to pre-operative diagnostic images, giving surgeons the ability to see beyond the surface of the surgical field. Sensitive structures including blood vessels and nerves are safely and easily avoided because they can be seen using computerized images. Additionally, the intuitive software permits navigation using virtually any pre-existing surgical instrument, so that hospitals are not required to purchase special surgical instruments in order to use the system.

#### **About Southern Illinois Brain and Spine Center**

Founded in 2006, Southern Illinois Brain and Spine Center brings a full range of advanced neurosurgical services to Southwestern Illinois. Brain and spine disorders take specialized skills to correctly diagnose and treat. At Southern Illinois Brain and Spine Center, you are in good hands. Led by Dr. Nicholas E. Poulos and Dr. Joseph Yazdi, our center employs the advanced technologies, therapies and surgical techniques needed to diagnose and treat a full spectrum of neurosurgical disorders. For more information, visit [sibrainandspine.com](http://sibrainandspine.com).

#### **About St. Elizabeth’s Hospital**

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Belleville, IL, maintains a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1875. Today, we continue their mission: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence

and joy. For more information please contact Kathy Kaiser, Manager of Media and Employee Communications 618.234.2120, extension 2946.

**About BrainLAB**

BrainLAB, a privately held company headquartered in Munich, Germany, was founded in 1989 and is specialized in the development, manufacture, and marketing of medical technology for radiosurgery, radiotherapy, orthopedics, neurosurgery, and ENT. Among the products developed by BrainLAB are software and hardware components for image-guided surgery and radiotherapy as well as integrated systems for stereotactic radiosurgery. With around 2,280 systems installed in over 65 countries, BrainLAB is among the market leaders in image-guided medical technology. BrainLAB today employs 740 people worldwide and has 15 offices across Europe, Asia, North and South America and Australia.

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