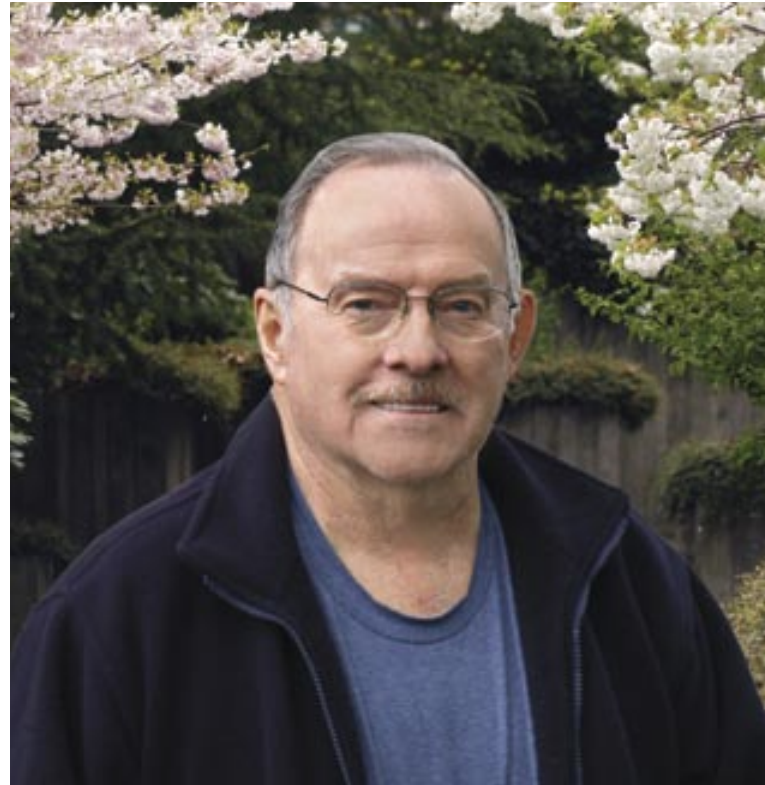


“The experience has *totally amazed me.*”

*After a lifetime of wear and tear, 71-year-old Don Piatt’s knees were just worn out. Even after multiple surgeries (seven on his right knee alone), the Fairbanks, Alaska, resident couldn’t do the simplest function without great pain.*



Don Piatt had both knees replaced – at the same time.



Pierce Scranton, MD

“I finally told my doctor that I was ready for total knee replacement,” Piatt recalls, “and he recommended Dr. Pierce Scranton, who was doing a minimally invasive procedure at Evergreen Hospital Medical Center.”

So Piatt and his wife came to Evergreen in mid-October 2004 for a consultation. “I had looked into Dr. Scranton’s background, and I knew that he did a lot of work with professional athletes,” Piatt says. “I was

very pleased that he was willing to operate on an old man of 71.” Piatt was also happy to find out that with the minimally invasive procedure, he could have both knees replaced at the same time.

**LEADING-EDGE ORTHOPEDIC CARE**

“We couldn’t have replaced both knees at the same time using the old technique with the larger incisions,” Dr. Scranton explains. “There would have been separate surgeries, each with a four-to-six month recuperation period – meaning about a year’s time to have Don’s knee problem fixed.” Not only did the minimally invasive procedure mean both knees could be done at the same time, but the recovery period is typically just three months. “And when you’re 71 years old,” Dr. Scranton adds, “that time means something.”

It also meant Piatt would only have to make one trip down from Alaska for surgery...something both he and his family appreciated. Another benefit was Evergreen’s comprehensive orthopedic program – the Orthopedic Center for Movement and Mobility –

which helped prepare Piatt for his surgery and his recuperation.

Four days after his surgery, Piatt was transferred to Evergreen’s Acute Rehabilitation Unit (ARU), where he received additional therapy until he was ready to be discharged. “That worked out beautifully,” he recalls. “I had all the people and care around me that I needed.” Dr. Scranton agrees. “The ARU provides a seamless transition from the orthopedic ward to recovery,” he says. “About half the patients spend time in the ARU before going home; the others go home and we have a visiting physical therapist see them.”

Dr. Scranton says Evergreen’s orthopedic program – and its surgeons – are on the leading edge. “A number of us have been doing the minimally invasive procedure for a couple of years now, where most hospitals don’t have any surgeons performing it,” he explains. “Evergreen has a major commitment to improve patient care, which is why I moved my practice to Evergreen.”

**A PAIN-FREE FUTURE**

Ten days after his surgery, Don Piatt was flying home to Fairbanks, where he continued physical therapy. He’s now enjoying many of the activities he’d had to give up because of the disabling knee pain. “The experience has totally amazed me...I’m really pleased with it,” he says. “The people at Evergreen helped me an awful lot.”

*For referral to an Evergreen-affiliated orthopedic surgeon or a brochure on Evergreen’s orthopedic program, please call the Evergreen Healthline at 425.899.3000.*