

Jake Breeding, M.D. (left), and Dwane Beckenhauer, M.D., provide general surgical care through Salina Regional Surgical Associates.

Dwane Beckenhauer, M.D., joins Jake Breeding, M.D., to provide comprehensive surgical services close to home

PERSONALIZED SURGICAL CARE



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BY JOHN BERGGREN

Salina Regional Surgical Associates welcomed general surgeon Dwane Beckenhauer, M.D., this summer, who joined general surgeon Jake Breeding, M.D., in providing a full line of surgical care in addition to emergency care for trauma patients in the region.

Both doctors offer endoscopy care and a wide range of surgical options, including breast, colorectal, antireflux, thyroid and parathyroid, hemorrhoid and many other surgeries using the latest open and laparoscopic techniques.

Both doctors are also lifelong Kansans who have many years of experience serving patients from rural areas of the state. Their background and experience allow many patients to feel at ease when surgery is needed.

COMPASSIONATE CARE

Forty-four-year-old Roxanne Tolle, Salina, went to Salina Regional's emergency department with excruciating abdominal pain. Doctors quickly recognized her symptoms and tests later confirmed an acute gallbladder attack. Surgery was needed and she was referred to Beckenhauer, who immediately put her at ease about the procedure.

"He showed a lot of sympathy for the discomfort that I was in and was very explanatory about the procedure and what needed to be done," Tolle says.

Beckenhauer was able to perform the surgery using laparoscopy, which requires only four small incisions to pass instruments and cameras inside the abdomen to remove the gallbladder.

"He was very kind to me and my family from our initial visit to follow-up phone calls from his nurse after we went home," Tolle says. "He actually showed pictures of the procedure to my family in the waiting room after it was over and told my daughters taking my gallbladder out was kind of like pulling a bunny from a hole."

Taking time to explain things to patients is just part of the routine, Beckenhauer says.

"Many people don't encounter surgery on a daily basis," Beckenhauer says. "I equate it to getting behind the wheel of a car. Everyone has an idea of what to expect when they get behind the wheel. It's similar with surgery. If we take the time to explain the risks and what to expect with a particular procedure, then if something more complicated arises later it becomes much easier to understand."

INSTILLING CONFIDENCE

Fifty-five-year-old Renee Hedrick was referred to Breeding after a lump was detected in her breast. After performing a biopsy using the clinic's Finesse Breast Biopsy System, her worst fears were confirmed—it was breast cancer.

"Dr. Breeding was calm, cool and talked in a way that I could understand," Hedrick says. "He helped me lay out a plan for treatment using chemotherapy first to shrink the size of the tumor and he even took it upon himself to perform genetic testing to see whether my daughters may also be prone to cancer."

Once the chemotherapy protocol is deemed successful and the tumor has shrunk, she will undergo a mastectomy to remove the remaining cancer.

"I remember there were a lot of tears when I first found out that it really was cancer," Hedrick says. "My husband and I were both shell-shocked. But after spending time with Dr. Breeding I've become confident we can overcome this. It's obvious they care and as a patient you're not just a means to their paycheck. After getting to know Dr. Breeding and the nurses I feel like I've made some friends through this ordeal."

"I want patients to be informed just like I would if they were a member of my family," Breeding says. "Often it's the stress and the unknown that makes surgery and even breast cancer treatment hard to cope with. We try to explain things so that they may gain perspective on what lies ahead." ❏