

First Endoscopic Removal of a Pituitary Tumor

James W. Melisi, MD, neurosurgery, and Robert Bahadori, MD, otolaryngology, recently successfully removed a pituitary tumor through the left nostril of a 28-year-old patient at Inova Fairfax Hospital. The endoscopic intranasal approach to the pituitary gland is a recent evolution of the conventional sublabial / transsphenoidal technique performed with the operating microscope. The success of this new surgical approach has developed because of progress made in the last decade in endoscopic treatment of the paranasal sinuses as well as on the knowledge of the endocrine and neurosurgical pathophysiology of the hypothalamic pituitary axis.

There are many advantages to using nasal endoscopy: the pituitary tumor is completely removed by entering through the nostril, thereby avoiding the need for incisions on the



gums or septum. This new approach also saves the patient from any nasal packing. Finally, the patient is able to breathe comfortably through the nose postoperatively and there is no risk of lip numbness, septal perforation, or

nasal tip collapse.

For more information, Dr. Melisi can be reached at **703-208-0820** and Dr. Bahadori can be reached at **703-573-7600**.