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**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL IN ORANGE NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST  
HOSPITALS FOR ORTHOPEDIC CARE**

**Hospital Earns Distinction for Third Consecutive Year**

ORANGE, Calif. – For the third consecutive year, St. Joseph Hospital in Orange has been named one of the nation's top hospitals for orthopedic care by *U.S. News & World Report*. The hospital is the only one in Orange County included in the latest national rankings for orthopedic care.

In the magazine's current 2009 "America's Best Hospitals" issue, St. Joseph Hospital ranked in the top 50 for orthopedic care. *U.S. News & World Report* surveyed more than 4,861 hospitals throughout the United States. Through progressively finer screenings, the magazine created a list of 170 top hospitals and ranked them in 16 different adult medical specialties.

"Three consecutive years as 'America's Best Hospital' for Orthopedic Care doesn't happen by chance. Our orthopedic surgeons, clinical staff and entire orthopedic patient care team truly represent the very best in orthopedic care," said Kevin Lundon, vice president of operations for St. Joseph Hospital. "This special distinction recognizes their clinical expertise and motivates us all to continue our mission of providing world class care to the Orange County community."

St. Joseph Hospital's orthopedic program features advanced hip and knee replacement, sports medicine, spine surgery, foot, ankle and hand surgery.

Highly regarded by consumers and health care professionals alike, the *U.S. News & World Report* survey compares hospitals on a national scale to help consumers make better decisions about their healthcare treatment. The centers are ranked in 16 specialties from pediatrics and cancer to orthopedics and urology. For the 2009 rankings, 200 board-certified physicians in their specialties were selected and surveyed at random from a list of the American Medical Association. Mortality data, reputation, patient volume and other factors were also indexed to create the nation's top specialty hospitals.

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