

New UCLA general surgery practice now open in Northridge



The UCLA Department of Surgery recently expanded into the San Fernando Valley and opened a new general surgery practice in Northridge. Led by Steven J. Weinstein, MD, a board-certified surgeon with more than 25 years of experience in the region, this office accepts referrals for patients in need of general surgery for breast disorders, hernias, gastrointestinal issues, skin cancers and other diseases.

All general surgical procedures are performed at either the Northridge Hospital Medical Center or at the Valley Physicians Surgery Center, both located in the same complex as the UCLA office. San Fernando Valley residents now have access to UCLA's world-class surgical care close to home. More complex cases can be referred to experts at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Westwood.

A specialization in breast surgery

With expertise in caring for disorders of the breast, the new Northridge practice is open to patients with lumps, masses, abnormal mammograms and nipple discharge. Patients already diagnosed with breast cancer who need a specialist for the surgical portion of their breast-cancer therapy are also treated at the new practice.

A direct link to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center for more complicated cases

The new UCLA Health Northridge general surgery practice has a direct link to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Westwood and other UCLA Health locations. "If a patient has a more complicated or rare condition, our direct access to UCLA Medical Center means that they can be taken care of there," says Steven J. Weinstein, MD, the UCLA surgeon heading up the new Northridge practice.

Dr. Weinstein says he's recently seen patients with advanced cancers and metastases and "more complicated cases than what you'd want to handle at a community hospital," which he immediately referred to the larger, tertiary facility. "For advanced and complicated procedures," he says, "that's where you want to be."

Patients treated at the Northridge facility can also get their chemotherapy or radiation therapy through UCLA because of this affiliation. "Our link to UCLA is a win for patients, who have more options when it comes to their care," Dr. Weinstein says.

While a majority of these patients are referred by another physician, often their primary-care doctor, new patients can also schedule appointments with a breast specialist without a referral.

Dr. Weinstein evaluates patients in his office and reviews any radiologic studies that they've already had done. When necessary, he orders additional imaging. Following the physical examination and review of all of materials, he works with the patient to determine the best course of treatment. He often performs mastectomies and lumpectomies, both with sentinel lymph node evaluation, at a nearby hospital.

If it's necessary for their treatment, patients can get chemotherapy either at Leavey Cancer Center in Northridge Hospital, at the UCLA oncology facility in Porter Ranch or at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Westwood.

Surgical care for other conditions

In addition to breast surgery, Dr. Weinstein performs all types of general surgery. He has extensive experience treating inguinal and incisional hernias; colon cancer; hemorrhoids; gastrointestinal problems, including those of the gallbladder and intestines; and skin cancer, including both office procedures for small growths and inpatient treatment for larger growths. He can also place peritoneal dialysis catheters.

Ties to the San Fernando Valley medical community

Dr. Weinstein maintains strong ties to the local medical community. He is affiliated with the UCLA oncology group in Porter Ranch, and also with the local oncologist at the Leavey Cancer Center in Northridge Hospital.

He also participates on the local breast-cancer committee, cancer committee, and breast-tumor board, the latter of which brings together a group of physicians, including surgeons, oncologists, radiation therapists and pathologists every other week to discuss individual patients and determine as a group the best way to manage their care.

Participating Physician

Steven J. Weinstein, MD

Senior Physician, UCLA Division of General Surgery

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