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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Oregon Clinic Announces Dr. Canepa Among First in the Northwest to Offer New Non-surgical XIAFLEX™ Treatment for Dupuytren's Contracture**

*The Oregon Clinic Brings the Latest Treatment for a Common Debilitating Hand Disorder to Portland and the Northwest*

**Portland, Ore., Nov. 30, 2010** – The Oregon Clinic continues to set the pace in the Northwest by offering patients with Dupuytren's contracture the new FDA-approved non-surgical, scientifically advanced XIAFLEX™. The treatment is being offered by Clifford S. Canepa, MD, FACS, who is one of the first to offer XIAFLEX in the Northwest.

Dupuytren's contracture is a hand deformity caused by the growth of thick, rope-like cords of tissue that prevent the fingers from relaxing and straightening normally. Until XIAFLEX, surgery was the predominant form of treatment. Now XIAFLEX offers sufferers of Dupuytren's a higher quality of life through a less invasive option for restoring hand function.

This new FDA-approved treatment consists of injecting small amounts of an enzyme known as collagenase, a biologic product derived of protein from a living organism. When injected, XIAFLEX breaks down the excessive collagen buildup that results in debilitating contractures.

XIAFLEX is the first non-surgical "enzymatically dissolving" treatment option for the progressive symptoms of Dupuytren's disorder, which is changing the lives of patients apprehensive about traditional surgical intervention. Preliminary results are rivaling those of the most effective Dupuytren's treatments introduced to date.

Dupuytren's disorder is more common in Caucasian men over the age of 50. The cause of Dupuytren's is not known, but there is speculation it may be triggered by physical trauma. Diabetes and liver disease also seem to correlate to the onset of the disorder.

"Hand surgeons have been working towards a treatment for Dupuytren's contracture that would provide long lasting results and pose the least amount of disruption to a patient's daily life, and this is proving to do both," said Dr. Canepa, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon with The Oregon Clinic's Plastic Surgery division. "Our goal is to find the best long-term results for some of the most common conditions our patients' experience. XIAFLEX is an exciting new treatment option with minimal risks that allows us to help Dupuytren's patients overcome a progressively debilitating handicap."

Just ask 51-year old Clatskanie mint farmer Michael Seely, who has suffered from Dupuytren's contracture since he was 20. Seely and his wife are former engineers who love farming. But the constant pain in his hands and feet made it almost impossible for him to handle the morning-to-night, seven-day a week workload on his 650-acre mint farm. That is, until now.

"My fingers would curl so badly that I couldn't straighten them out," Seely explained. "It was hard to grab things and work with the farm equipment. My wife and kids would have to be my hands. I've endured three operations, and one didn't turn out so well. The recovery was excruciating."

But that all changed for Seely after his XIAFLEX injection in late June of this year. "I was ready for a lot of pain, but I went to work the next day—pain free. It was incredible," he recalled. "My finger is free and I'm looking forward to getting the others done. I would tell those suffering from this condition not to hesitate. This is a fantastic procedure. I'm now waiting for FDA approval to treat my feet."

**About The Oregon Clinic:**

The Oregon Clinic is the largest private specialty physician practice in Oregon, with more than 120 physicians practicing over 30 different medical and surgical specialties and sub-specialties. We use a team approach to address health conditions at more than 15 locations from Vancouver to Salem, and from Hood River to Astoria. Founded in Portland in 1994, our physicians and staff are committed to delivering the highest quality patient care, practicing evidence-based medicine, and providing leadership for the healthcare community. Visit [www.orclinic.com](http://www.orclinic.com) or call 503-935-8000 for more information.

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