

Stephen Thorton

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01:42:18 [Start of recorded material]

Interviewer: Name, credentials

01:43:20 Stephen Thorton: Uh, my name is Stephen Thorton. I'm an orthopedic surgeon, uh, here at the Texas Institute for Surgery in Dallas, Texas; and I specialize in sports medicine with a sub-specialty of orthopedic surgery.

Interviewer: Tell us about the new changes here with HD.

01:43:42 Stephen: Uh, the most exciting, uh, upcoming addition to the Texas Institute for Surgery is, uh, the high definition surgical suites. Uh, we've, uh, uh, coordinated with Striker to outfit our suites, uh, and we have state of the art, uh, surgical suites now. Uh, probably the most, uh, impressive is the high definition, which, uh, gives amazing clarity and color resolution, uh, which in turn, uh, leads to less surgical time because we can see better. As surgeons, if you can see better, uh, you can work quicker. Uh, and that's going to improve patient care, uh, as well as efficiency of the OR.

Interviewer: What does that mean for patient care?

01:44:28 Stephen: Uh, the high definition, uh -- let me think how I want to say that. The, uh, uh, the, the surgical staff are going to truly, uh, benefit from this as much as the surgeons. It's going to be

a more efficient operating suite. Uh, everything is going to be at their fingertips with touch screen controls, uh, as well as, uh, just streamlining the processes. Uh, the surgical staff are now, uh, very efficient in all that they do.

Interviewer: Do you need some water.

01:45:11 Stephen: Yeah.

Interviewer: Part of that HD equipment is the wireless technology. Any perspective on that?

01:45:35 Stephen: Uh, this will be the first wireless HD -- or excuse me -- this will be the first wireless HD, uh, surgical suite in the DFW area, and as a result we're going to decrease our OR setup times. Uh, again, efficiency is going to come to play, uh, as we don't have to worry about wires and cables and making sure these are sterile, uh, which again is going to increase patient care because of the decreased surgical times.

Interviewer: Is there anything unique about the setup of the observation area?

01:46:19 Stephen: Not anything special. It's just an observation. . . we can just talk about teleconference maybe.

01:46:30 Stephen: In addition, Texas -- excuse me -- In addition some of the OR suites are set up with observation rooms which

allow for teaching, which here at Texas Institute for Surgery we're very much involved with, uh, teaching, uh, residents, fellows, physical therapy and other ancillary medical staff. These observation rooms will allow these people to observe, uh, operations, uh, and learn in a much better fashion, uh, as opposed to sitting in a corner, they're actually able to watch, uh, video screens - - what exactly is happening at the time of surgery.

Interviewer: What's your perspective personally and what it means for TIS with respect to this cutting edge technology?

01:47:41 Stephen: Texas Institute for Surgery is a leader in, uh, state of the art surgical techniques, uh, and facilities; not only in Texas, but in the United States. Uh, we have the best, uh, surgeons and each of their, uh, specific sub-specialty that are working here at Texas Institute for Surgery and the addition of these high definition suites is going to simply, uh, make their work easier. Uh, we're going to see better. We're going to work more efficiently. Uh, our ancillary staff is going to work more efficiently and it's just going to continue to propel Texas Institute for Surgery, uh, further as a leader in, uh, medical facilities.

Interviewer: Is there any particular thing that you like the best in terms of the HD or wireless?

01:48:46 Stephen: Uh, I was going to say the resolution is just amazing. Uh, I personally was able to use the new Striker, uh, high

definition suites and, uh, was, uh, amazed at the amount of clarity and color resolution, uh, that these screens, uh, give. Uh, it, uh, certainly improved my visualization of the operative field. Uh, it improved my efficiency, and, uh, it is certainly an exciting time, uh, to be working here at Texas Institute for Surgery.

Interviewer: I'm sure you've seen lots of advances in orthopedic surgery over the years. Is there anything you could compare this with?

01:50:35 Stephen: I'm just trying to think -- maybe, you know, arthroscopy has been around but there are some things that have been limited and now with, uh. . . .

01:50:54 Stephen: Uh, again, these are exciting times, uh, specifically for me as an orthopedic surgeon. Uh, we've been using arthroscopic techniques now for many years, uh, but with the, uh, evolution of high definition, uh, uh, visual aids, we now are able to do things that once were thought impossible, uh, and continue, uh, to progress, uh, with these, uh, uh, techniques.

Interviewer: Are you involved enough to have a perspective on how that impacts the ROI aspect?

01:51:43 Stephen: Yeah. Yeah. For patients.

01:52:18 Stephen: I don't know if this is going to help the institute that much, but it's going to help patients. It's going to help

them because of decreased surgical time. It decreases hospital stay, which is a big push with the national. . . .so we could talk. . . .

01:52:36 Stephen: It's not going to help us. If anything it's going to hurt us, but it's going to help patients.

Interviewer: Maybe we should stay away from that.

01:52:41 Stephen: Yeah. It's going to help patients. We'll go with that.

01:52:47 Stephen: From a patient care perspective, uh, again we've talked about how we're going to decrease surgical times because we can simply see better and we're more efficient in the OR suites, as a result, uh, we're going to have decreased hospital stays which is going to help the bottom line not only for the patient, but also for the hospital in certain situations.

01:53:22 Stephen: With decreased surgical times there's also going to come decreased hospital stays as well as decreased, uh, rehabilitation times; because the operative time is going to be shorter, the morbidity is going to be less and the patients are going to jump back much quicker than before.

Interviewer: Tell us about your experience working here.

01:53:54 Stephen: I've been here for however long -- four years now?

Interviewer: Are you one of the founding. . . .?

01:53:58 Stephen: I wasn't one of the founding -- I wasn't one of the founders when it came to this building, but it had -- about two years before I came this kind of all came to be.

Interviewer: Give us an overview of TIS and its mission.

01:54:56 Stephen: I've had the privilege of working for Texas Institute for Surgery now for the past four years. Uh, I kind of use an analogy. It's like staying at a boutique hotel. Uh, you get, uh, the best service. You're getting the highest quality products. Uh, it's quite a pleasant experience to work here, not only as a surgeon, but I've had family members who have had operations here. Uh, and it is quite an experience from the other side of the OR bed as well. Uh, so I couldn't be happier to be here at Texas Institute for Surgery and, uh, continue to recommend it highly, not only to my surgical colleagues but to, uh, other potential patients.

Interviewer: Describe some of the specifics of that care.

01:56:22 Stephen: Some of the unique perspectives here at Texas Institute for Surgery I think you have to always start with your surgical staff. Uh, our turnover rate here is close to zero. Uh, the

surgical staff is very happy here and when you have happy colleagues, things run efficiently, everyone's happy and patients benefit from that, uh, not only in the OR but also in the inpatient rooms. Uh, we have a highly skilled set of, uh, RNs, uh, that run the, uh, inpatient stay. Uh, not only are they getting good medical care, but we also have a chef on site, uh, so they're getting the best of, uh, culinary experience as well. Uh, so it's an overall wonderful experience for our patients, uh, from the OR up to the inpatient stay, uh, to the time that they leave.

Interviewer: Tell us about the expertise of the staff.

01:57:21 Stephen: Here at Texas Institute for Surgery, again, we have, uh, the, uh, highest level of expertise in each field, whether that be orthopedics, ENT, neurosurgery, all subspecialties are covered here at Texas Institute for Surgery, uh, and due to the -- or as a result of the high quality, uh, facilities, uh, you are going to get a high quality of, uh, physician to work here. And, uh, and I think we've accomplished that.

Interviewer: What about the staff as well?

01:57:56 Stephen: I don't know much about their training or anything that makes them expert except that they don't leave and that speaks volumes for a surgical facility when your staff doesn't leave. You know, if they stick around, they like it here. You know

exactly. They run over there like this place is for the pits. I'm out of here. You know?

Interviewer: Your description of inpatient care.

01:58:54 Stephen: Uh, from top to bottom, uh, the Texas Institute for Surgery has, uh, really spared no expense on every detail. Uh, obviously in the OR suites we have state of the art, uh, surgical facility with high definition suites and, uh, uh, the surgical equipment we're using. Uh, not only that, but from the inpatient facilities, uh, you can see the design of the rooms, uh, they're spacious. Uh, each room is, uh, uh, filled with beautiful art. Uh, and, uh. . . .

Interviewer: I think we have what we need. The meeting space -- perspective on that?

01:59:56 Stephen: Yeah. Uh, at Texas Institute for Surgery we do consider ourselves a teaching facility. Uh, and we are adapted to that with our teleconferencing ability. We have, uh, learning suites and observation rooms where we can teach, uh, ancillary personnel or visiting students; whether those be medical students or residents. Uh, and that has, uh, really propelled us to, uh, the utmost of teaching, uh, here in the DFW area.

[End of recorded material]