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NOW, COMPUTERS AID IN JOINT REPLACEMENT SURGERY IN CITY

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KOLKATA: Belle Vue Clinic installed 'orthopilot'; on Monday, the fourth generation navigation system that helps doctors eliminates human errors in hip and knee replacement and corrective surgeries.

"The machine's efficiency is much higher than the devices normally used for knee and hip replacement surgeries. Orthopilot is a hi-tech machine for enhancing precision during surgeries," Dr Krishna Kiran, director, Institute of Computer Assisted Joint Replacement Centre, Hyderabad, said during the launch of the German-manufactured device.

"Prior to computer-assisted devices, we couldn't be certain that an implant would be placed in the optimal position. It allows easy minimally invasive surgery, decreasing recovery time and post-operative pain," he said.

The increased accuracy also help increase the life of the implants, while causing less blood loss in the patient. In fact, most patients are able to walk one day after the surgery.

Stating that Orthopilot is a powerful surgical tool that combines dedicated software with superior instrument design, knee

surgeon, said Dr Santosh Kumar, head of the institute of Computer-assisted (navigated) joint replacement centre at the clinic.

"It guides a surgeon to make precise cuts in the joints and remove deformities, by using infrared camera. It gives patient specific information during surgery while virtually eliminating expensive and radiation intensive CT and MRI scans before the surgery," Dr Kumar added.