

**press clip**

3-D surgery proves to be a great success

Leesa Smith

KRISTA Richardson has been transformed from being housebound and crippled with pain into an active and happy woman.

Mrs Richardson, 69, spent nine months in constant agony from back pain caused by a degenerative disease, but since she had surgery in February, she has a new lease of life.

"I expected to go into rehab for a while but I didn't have to go," she said. "I just went straight home and apart from not lifting anything too heavy for a couple of months – I was back to normal – it was amazing."

Mrs Richardson had her surgery using the new 3-D imaging machine at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick. The Orbic 3-D machine, which was installed at the hospital in August, is a minimally invasive procedure which is safer, more precise and improves patient outcomes.

Dr Ralph Mobbs, a spinal and neurological surgeon at the hospital, performed the surgery on Mrs Richardson.

"The access to instant 3-D imaging while performing surgery means each procedure is safer and more precise. There is less exposure to radiation from extra scans, meaning patients have a quicker recovery with less time in hospital," Dr Mobbs said.

Mrs Richardson's vertebrae curved inwards by 1cm creating an "S" shape and great discomfort that could only be relieved if she lay flat.

"I didn't expect it to be so successful and was very worried about the surgery, but after four days in hospital was able to walk up and down steps and I was in no pain whatsoever; in fact, I have had no pain at all since my surgery," she said. "I live a normal life, whereas before I was pretty much tied to the house and not be able to go out or to do anything."

