



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

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Vitruvian Health’s Hamilton Medical Center becomes first in region to perform three groundbreaking cardiovascular procedures

Heart & Vascular Program now offering cutting-edge procedures for 3D plaque analysis, blood clot removal, leadless pacemaker implantation

DALTON, Ga. (January 31, 2025) – Hamilton Medical Center (HMC), northwest Georgia’s hospital cornerstone for more than a century, recently became the first in the region to perform three groundbreaking cardiovascular procedures, further solidifying the strength of its comprehensive Heart & Vascular Program.

“Our Heart & Vascular Program not only offers the full scope of comprehensive and advanced care, but we continually implement the latest technological advancements as early adoptors of innovative procedures,” said Ateet Patel, MD, medical director for the Heart & Vascular Program.

During the fourth quarter of 2024, Hamilton Medical Center’s Heart & Vascular Program debuted the following procedures:

- **HeartFlow’s CT FFR Analysis**

Patients at risk for coronary artery disease can take advantage of this upgraded platform, which assists cardiologists by providing essential insights that can greatly aid clinical decision making and allow the implementation of personalized patient treatment plans. HeartFlow’s CT FFR uses artificial intelligence to analyze coronary CT angiogram (CCTA) scans. By creating a 3D model unique to the patient, it measures blockages in coronary arteries, providing a more clear and comprehensive view of a patient’s risk. It equips cardiologists with the information they need to steer the patient toward the most favorable result possible.

- **Leadless Pacemaker Implantation**

A pacemaker is a medical device implanted in the chest, which helps the heart beat at its proper rate. Anand Kenia, MD, and his team recently implanted the first leadless atrial pacemaker in the region and have the ability to implant dual-chamber leadless pacemakers as well. These game-changing procedures prove to be less invasive options because the devices

are implanted using a catheter-based approach, which doesn't require a chest incision. Additionally, the devices are attached directly inside the heart, so no under-the-skin pockets are needed to contain the devices, which are 90 percent smaller than transvenous pacemakers. Leadless pacemakers offer notable advantages by eliminating the possibility of complications such as hematoma, pocket infections, lead dislodgment, and more. "I am excited to offer the atrial and dual chamber leadless pacing to the community," Kenia said. "This procedure offers unique advantages to certain patients and can be an excellent solution for some of our most challenging cases."

- **Inari Medical Blood Clot Removal**

Sonny Achtchi, DO, and his team were the first in the area to remove a blood clot using the ClotTrievers XL system. It helps patients experience quick relief from deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a condition where a blood clot forms in a deep vein, typically in the lower legs. The ClotTrievers system begins with a small, noninvasive incision followed by a small tube being inserted into the vein. A catheter is delivered through the tube to the location of the clot, allowing the physician to capture and remove it. This is done while the patient is under mild sedation and without the use of potentially risky clot-buster drugs. Patients often see immediate results and can leave soon after the procedure and recover at home. "The ClotTrievers XL allows for a single-session, precise treatment with rapid improvement in symptoms for the patients," said Achtchi.

"Heart and vascular patients in the area can choose Hamilton Medical Center with confidence knowing they have access to sophisticated technology close to home," said Patel. "We're not only able to offer some of the most advanced tech in the medical field, but we're able to put it in the hands of highly-trained providers with the knowledge and skill needed to provide the best outcomes they can for our patients."

For more information or to schedule an intake appointment with HMC's Heart & Vascular Program, call 706-226-3434.

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Photo(s)

Pacemaker:

Heart & Vascular team members celebrate the first atrial leadless pacemaker procedure at Hamilton Medical Center.

Ateet Patel, MD

Anand Kenia, MD

Sonny Achtchi, DO