



From the CEO

A letter from
Michael V. Sack

I hope you enjoy this issue of Hallmark Health System (HHS) Magazine. There is much to write about and much being done. Health care today is not a place for the idle. Health care policy and health payment reform are strongly influencing changes in our health delivery processes. Our Board of Trustees is having a profound positive impact on the quality and safety of the care our doctors and clinical staff provide. Our medical staff members are actively engaged in implementing practice performance measures and standardization of processes designed to decrease unnecessary utilization to control costs and to improve patient outcomes. Administratively, we are exploring and implementing performance improvement projects, asking patients and staff for ideas and recommendations to improve our patients' experiences.

Recently, health care delivery was referred to as a "team sport." Everyone on the team has a critical role to play and has to be on top of their game to support the goals of the entire team. I want you to know your HHS team is united as never before and providing great health care to all of our communities. Join with us to be even better.

Michael V. Sack, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hallmark Health System



The Hallmark Health System (HHS) Cardiac & Endovascular Center, located at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, recently added to its comprehensive list of advanced services and procedures by becoming one of only a few community hospitals in the region to offer a catheterization procedure that causes far less discomfort and leads to quicker recoveries for patients. Radial artery catheterization allows the medical team to access the heart regions through the main artery in the forearm rather than the traditional path through the femoral artery in the upper leg.

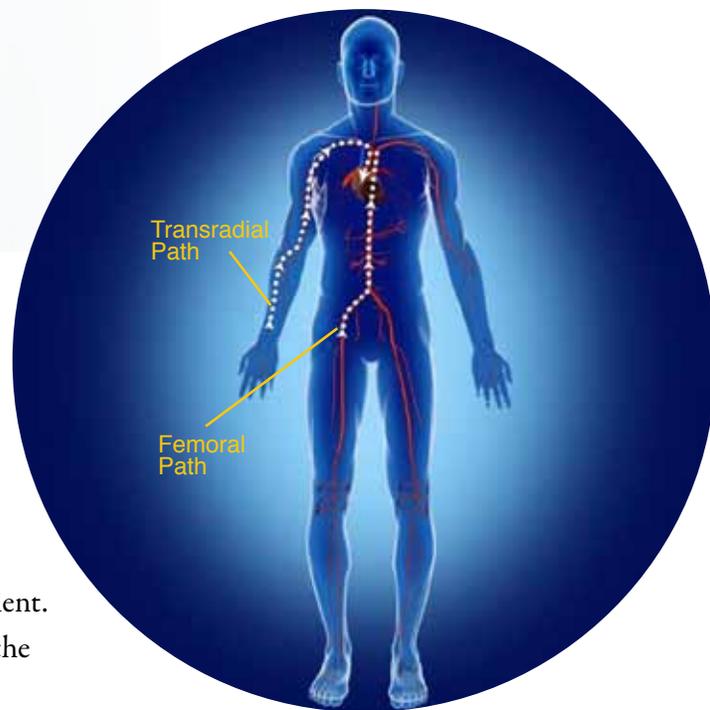
This is a major improvement for qualified patients, as the new technique is more comfortable and reduces the risk of complications and bleeding after the procedure. Patients no longer need to lie still for up to five hours after the procedure to make sure there is no bleeding and everything heals correctly as they do after the traditional catheterization.

Cardiac catheterization is a method used to perform many tests and procedures to diagnose and treat coronary artery disease. The method involves threading a thin tube called a catheter through an artery or vein to assess damage and if needed open narrowed arteries.

New cardiac procedure leads to less discomfort and quicker recovery times

“Once the procedure is completed we just put a bandage on the patients’ wrist and they sit right up,” said Carl Turissini, MD, co-director of the Center and director of interventional cardiology for HHS. “Before we offered this new procedure patients would have to lie in bed for hours. Now they can sit up in bed, watch TV, read a newspaper, whatever they want.”

Dr. Turissini stressed that the radial approach is not for every patient. There are a number of factors that indicate whether the radial or the femoral artery approach is the best option for the patient.



Services:

- Cardiac catheterization
- Angioplasty/stents
- Pacemakers
- Cardioversions
- EKG
- Stress test
- Nuclear stress test
- Echocardiography
- Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)
- Holter monitoring
- Event monitor recorder
- Cardiac rehab
- Non-invasive vascular tests
- Endovascular aortic aneurysm repair
- Treatment for leg pain and Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD)
- Blood clot treatment
- Vascular surgery
- Emergency care
- Minimally-invasive procedures
- Varicose/spider vein treatment

For more information about the Center, visit www.hallmarkhealth.org and select “Programs” or call (781) 979-3999.