

Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas Performs 1000th Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) Procedure

Valve program celebrating this 1,000th TAVR patient milestone

Dallas, TX, June 6, 2019 – Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas’ transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) program team is celebrating a key milestone for the facility: the 1,000th TAVR patient completed since the program’s start in 2011.

Historically, valve replacement required an open heart procedure with a “sternotomy,” in which the chest is surgically separated (open) for the procedure. TAVR, also known as TAVI – transcatheter aortic valve implantation – is performed through the femoral artery (large artery in the groin) called the transfemoral approach or through very small openings in the chest in patients who have been diagnosed with aortic stenosis.

The aorta is the largest artery in the body and carries the entire output of blood. The aortic valve consists of three tightly fitting, triangular-shaped leaflets of tissue positioned between the left ventricle of the heart and the aorta. Severe aortic stenosis occurs when the aortic valve does not open properly forcing the heart to work harder to pump blood through the body. The most common symptom of the condition is chronic shortness of breath, however; patients may also experience chest pains or dizziness. Research shows that left untreated, severe aortic stenosis has a 50 percent mortality rate at two years.

In addition to reaching the volume of greater than 1,000, the Center for Valve Disorders reports that the median length of stay for patients is now one day. More than 85 percent of post-TAVR patients are discharged home with no additional care required.

“Congratulations to the multidisciplinary team of cardiologists, interventional cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, imaging cardiologists, anesthesiologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, rad techs, MRI techs, invasive specialists and many others who have worked diligently over the past several years to achieve this milestone,” says Nancy Vish, PhD, RN, NEA-BC. “To reach the 1,000th procedure is nationally notable. There are only a few centers in the country with high volumes and ability to sustain a quality program. We are proud that we are one of those programs.”

“We are proud of our program and the fact that we’ve consistently achieved top quality in a high volume program since 2011. With CMS and FDA approval of intermediate risk and pending approval of low risk patients, TAVR will become the dominant therapy for patients with isolated aortic stenosis,” says Robert Stoler, MD, FACC, FSCAI, Co-Medical Director of Cardiology and Medical Director of Catheterization Lab.

No medical procedure is without risk, but TAVR provides a lower risk treatment option to patients who may not have been candidates for open valve replacement years ago with generally faster recovery time. A patient’s experience with a TAVR procedure may be comparable to a [balloon treatment](#) or even an [angiogram](#) in terms of down time and recovery.

The Center for Valve Disorders located within Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas, and the team of specialists on the medical staff have been involved in international and national clinical trials for TAVR and other valve therapies. The history with research and clinical trials for various valve devices also propelled the program to be one of the top programs

in the region and often the first location either in the State of Texas or nationally to offer more recent generation valves used in TAVR. For more information on the clinical trials, visit www.baylorhearthospital.com/clinicaltrials.

About Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital - Dallas

Founded in a tradition of research and innovation, Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas† opened in 2002 as the region’s first and only dedicated hospital to heart and vascular care. The Dallas hospital is located on the main campus of Baylor University Medical Center - Dallas, a part of Baylor Scott & White Health. Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas has cardiology services available at Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth. With more than 42,000 patient registrations annually, a broad array of advanced cardiac interventional procedures and vascular surgeries are available, as well as diagnostic imaging and cardiac rehabilitative services. Programs on wellness and prevention are offered for the community. For more information visit: www.BaylorHeartHospital.com or to find a specialist who performs TAVR, call 1.844.BSW.DOCS.

About Baylor Scott & White Health

As the largest not-for-profit health system in the state of Texas, Baylor Scott & White Health promotes the health and well-being of every individual, family and community it serves. An integrated care delivery network, the system includes the Scott and White Health Plan, Baylor Scott & White Research Institute and Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance. Through 50 hospitals and more than 1,000 access points including flagship academic medical centers in Dallas and Temple, the system offers the full continuum of care, from primary to award-winning specialty care, throughout Texas, and via virtual touchpoints. If its service area were a state, it would be the eighth largest, providing care to a population larger than that of the state of Georgia. Founded as a Christian ministry of healing, Baylor Scott & White is proud to honor its century-long legacy through its commitment to improving accessibility, affordability and the customer experience for all. For more information, visit BSWHealth.com.

† Joint ownership with physicians.

Notice Regarding Physician Ownership: Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital is a hospital in which physicians have an ownership or investment interest. The list of the physician owners or investors is available to you upon request. Physicians provide clinical services as members of the medical staff at one of Baylor Scott & White Health’s subsidiary, community or affiliated medical centers and are neither employees nor agents of those medical centers, Baylor Health Care System, Scott & White Healthcare or Baylor Scott & White Health.

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