Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Fort Worth Performs 100th Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) Procedure
Valve program celebrating this 100th TAVR patient milestone

Fort Worth, TX, February 11, 2019 – The Valve Disorders Center and cath lab teams at Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Fort Worth, together with cardiologists on the medical staff who are a part of the TAVR program team, celebrate a key milestone for the Fort Worth cardiovascular program on the campus of Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center: the 100th TAVR patient completed since the program's start in late 2017. The 100th patient was completed on Monday, February 11th and traveled from Abilene, Texas, for the procedure.

"The program started on this campus in October of 2017. To reach the 100th procedure is a major milestone for the team. At this TAVR volume level, our patients are realizing the experience and efficiency of the entire multidisciplinary clinical team," says Amir Malik, MD, FACC, FSCAI, Medical Director for the Structural Heart Disease Program in Fort Worth. "There are only a few centers in the country with similar annual volumes. We are proud that our Fort Worth valve disease program is one of those programs."

Nancy Vish, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, President and Chief Nursing Officer for Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Fort Worth and Dallas said, "Congratulations to the multidisciplinary team who worked diligently over the past 16 months to achieve this milestone. We know that our cardiologists on the medical staff have a large network of support as indicated by the patients from out-of-town who receive the procedure in our hospital. We continually measure and report the program's quality indicators and are proud to report that the median length of stay for patients is less than two days."

"As patients live longer, more with aortic stenosis will need treatment. This treatment has been proven to improve an aortic stenosis patient's quality of life. And, with CMS and FDA approval of this procedure for patients of intermediate risk – meaning – it would be very risky for the patient to have open heart surgery to repair or replace an aortic valve, more patients with aortic stenosis can be treated less invasively with TAVR," says Farhan Ali, MD, MA, MPH, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI, Interventional Cardiology Medical Director.

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 flaps of tissue called leaflets and is positioned between the left ventricle of the heart and the aorta. Severe aortic stenosis occurs when the aortic valve does not open or close properly forcing the heart to work harder to pump blood through the body.

More than 500,000 of aortic stenosis patients are considered severe cases with half presenting symptoms. 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.

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