

Baylor Heart and Vascular Services at Fort Worth Perform First TAVR

Aortic stenosis patient have interventional treatment options available through the Valve Disorders Center located on the campus of Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth

In early October, the multidisciplinary clinical team at Baylor Heart and Vascular Services at Fort Worth completed the first transcatheter aortic valve replacements (TAVR) in the Heart Catheterization Department of Baylor Heart and Vascular Services at Fort Worth, located on the 6th floor of Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth.

With a history and tradition of rigorous cardiovascular programs on the campus of Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth and through collaboration with Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital since 2014, a multidisciplinary team of cardiologists, interventional cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, and nurses worked over the past year to standardize care protocols and develop a patient pathway through the Valve Disorders Center in Fort Worth leading to this first TAVR procedure.

In order to obtain Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) recognition for being a TAVR program site, the facility needed to ensure a high volume of valve-related procedures and report outcomes. For example, a minimum of 400 percutaneous heart catheterizations need to occur annually at the site, more than 50 aortic valve replacements within a timeframe must have occurred, and the organization must demonstrate proficiency and quality outcomes in various types of valve surgery and interventional cardiology procedures. Interventional cardiologists from a variety of independent area cardiology practices together with cardiac surgeons continue to meet weekly and review, one case at a time, the appropriate and recommended treatment and care for individual aortic stenosis patients.

“A multidisciplinary team has been the driving force behind the Valve Disorders Center in Fort Worth. We are pleased to offer a variety of aortic stenosis treatment options including, as of this week, the availability of TAVR,” says Nancy Vish, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, President and Chief Nursing Officer for Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital. “Interventional valve procedures have occurred for some time, but the formalization of the program and the TAVR availability is a culmination of a lot of hard work to provide quality care for aortic stenosis patients. We are well-prepared to meet this growing demand for valve disease treatment.”

“As patients are living longer active lives, aortic stenosis volumes continue to increase,” says Dr. Farhan Ali, Medical Director of Interventional Cardiology for Baylor Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital/Baylor Heart and Vascular Services at Fort Worth. “Patients with aortic stenosis have choices in their treatment and choices in their location for their treatment. Providing TAVR as a valve disease treatment option expands the ability of the services at Baylor Scott & White - Fort Worth to treat complex cardiovascular diseases.”

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. The aorta is the largest artery in the body and carries the entire output of blood. 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. Approximately 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.

The Valve Disorders Center nursing manager is available to answer any questions about the types of patients appropriate to be seen at the Valve Disorders Center in Fort Worth and the pathway outlined by the multidisciplinary group for TAVR patients. For more information, contact Diana Stone, MSN, RN, at 817-825-1374.

About Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital Services in Fort Worth

Baylor Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital opened in 2002 on the Baylor University Medical Center Dallas campus as the first North Texas hospital dedicated solely to the care and treatment of heart and vascular patients. In 2014, the governing body for the hospital entered into an agreement with Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth to provide all cardiology services on the Baylor Scott & White – Fort Worth campus. In fiscal year 2017, more than 8,400 patient registrations occurred for Baylor Heart and Vascular Services in Fort Worth. For more information visit: www.BaylorHeartHospital.com/FortWorth.html

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About Baylor Scott & White Health

Formed from the 2013 merger between Baylor Health Care System and Scott & White Healthcare, the system referred to as Baylor Scott & White Health is the largest not-for-profit health care system in the state of Texas. With total assets of \$10.8 billion* and serving a population larger than the state of Georgia, Baylor Scott & White Health has the vision and resources to provide its patients continued quality care while creating a model system for a dramatically changing health care environment. The system now includes 48 hospitals, more than 1,000 access points, 5,500 active physicians, and 44,000 employees, plus the Scott & White Health Plan, Baylor Scott & White Research Institute and Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance — a network of clinical providers and facilities focused on improving quality, managing the health of patient populations, and reducing the overall cost of care. For more information visit: bswhealth.com

* based on audited 2016 fiscal year statements

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