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Contact: Mike Burke, 850-449-4455

Ascension Sacred Heart becomes first hospital in the region to offer new system to manage patients with heart failure

PENSACOLA, Fla. (April 1, 2022) – Ascension Sacred Heart recently became the first hospital in Northwest Florida to implant a new cardiac device that enables doctors to better monitor the health of patients with heart failure and prevent worsening symptoms.

The procedure implants a pressure sensor inside the pulmonary artery. The device is able to measure and record pressure readings and transmit them from a patient at home to their cardiologist. If the data shows the patient's heart condition is getting worse, the heart specialists can adjust the patient's medication to prevent complications and keep the patient out of the hospital.

Ascension Sacred Heart is utilizing the new technology – the Cordella Heart Failure System – as part of a large international research study, the ProActive-HF clinical trial. The hospital was chosen to be a part of the clinical trial that includes 90 centers across the country. Clinical studies have previously found that regular pulmonary artery monitoring can reduce mortality and hospitalization for heart failure.

Dr. Rohit Amin, an interventional cardiologist and Ascension Sacred Heart's principal investigator for the study, uses a minimally invasive procedure to successfully attach the pressure sensor inside the pulmonary artery.

"The implanted device allows us to accurately identify and predict when patients will experience worsening heart failure and thereby avoid hospitalizations and emergency room visits," said Dr. Amin. "This is a huge leap forward in leveraging modern technology and contemporary management of heart failure. Ascension Medical Group and our cardiology team are proud to participate in this landmark clinical trial."

Heart failure occurs when the pumping action of a weakened heart is not effectively pushing enough blood with each beat. That can lead to fluid buildup in the body, shortness of breath, swelling, and possibly a hospital admission. For patients with heart failure, monitoring of pulmonary artery pressure can allow physicians to take action and adjust medications before the fluid actually accumulates in the body.

Patients enrolled in the trial can check their blood pressure, pulse, oxygen saturation, weight, and pulmonary artery pressure every morning from home. These readings are uploaded into an online portal the hospital's heart specialists can see at any time.

"We're very excited about this study because it provides patients in our community who have heart failure an opportunity to be proactive when it comes to their monitoring and treatment," said Walid Kara, director of research at Ascension Sacred Heart. "We are the first hospital offering this cutting-edge research in our region."

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