



Interventional Procedures

The Heart Group provides a complete array of interventional services to diagnose and treat patients with coronary blockages and related conditions.

By integrating all of the cardiovascular services into a single practice, The Heart Group assures primary physicians that their patients' complete needs will be met with a single referral. We evaluate patients to determine which therapy or combination of therapies will be most effective for their problems, and deliver that care in a timely manner, keeping the primary physician well-informed.

PROCEDURES

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION

One of the most effective diagnostic tools for chest pain and related symptoms, this procedure uses X-ray contrast medium and a thin plastic catheter advanced to the heart artery via the patient's groin. By pinpointing the type and severity of the blockage, assessing muscle function and identifying congenital abnormalities, the cardiologist can better recommend the most effective therapies.

ANGIOPLASTY & STENT

If catheterization indicates a blockage, angioplasty (PTCA) may restore blood flow. A balloon advanced across the area of narrowing is expanded to compress plaque. Often, a stent is placed in the artery, providing support to decrease the likelihood of re-narrowing. Angioplasty is often performed immediately following catheterization, minimizing patient stress.



PRIMARY ANGIOPLASTY

Primary angioplasty is performed to increase survival and minimize heart muscle death following myocardial infarction. Upon arrival at the ER, patients are immediately moved to the lab, where catheterization is performed to identify the nature of the blockage and choose the appropriate treatment.

ATHERECTOMY & ROTABLATOR

These procedures remove cholesterol and plaque from arterial walls, increasing the effectiveness of subsequent angioplasty and stent therapies. Directional Coronary Atherectomy (DCA) employs a cutting device to remove cholesterol in larger arteries. Rotablator uses a rapidly spinning, diamond-coated burr that pulverizes plaque into pieces smaller than blood cells. It is particularly effective when arteries are heavily calcified, or when the area of narrowing is unusually long.