



The Best Outcomes in Cardiology

NEWS RELEASE

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The Care Group Participates in Groundbreaking Mitral Regurgitation Repair

(Indianapolis) -- Mitral regurgitation (MR) is a progressive disorder that affects an estimated 4 million people in the United States, with an annual incidence of 250,000 newly diagnosed patients. In patients with MR, blood leaks backward with each heartbeat, causing the heart to work harder. At present, the only way to treat MR is through mitral valve repair or mitral valve replacement, both of which require open-heart surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass. Approximately 50,000 MR patients will undergo surgery each year. Currently, less than 20 percent of patients with significant MR receive treatment, which demonstrates the large, unmet clinical need for less invasive treatment options for these patients.

Drs. James Hermiller and Douglas Segar, cardiologists with Indianapolis-based The Care Group, LLC performed the first mitral valve repair in the state on March 22, 2006 at The Heart Center of Indiana (THCI), using a mitral clip delivered through a stent. This new procedure replaces open heart surgery to repair the valve. The goal of the procedure is to repair the mitral valve and improve blood flow through the heart. A 50-year old Anderson woman had decreasing quality of life for the past 4 years and was from THCI after one day a significant reduction of the normal 7-day hospitalization required after the chest cavity is opened.

The Care Group, LLC is one of approximately 30 potential centers in North America that was selected to participate in the multi-center EVEREST II (Endovascular Valve Edge-to-Edge Repair Study) study. The study will evaluate the safety and efficacy of the non-surgical procedure in patients with moderate to severe or severe MR, as compared to surgical repair or replacement.

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The Care Group, LLC, with 133 cardiologists and primary care physicians, is the largest non-academic practice in the United States and is recognized as a premier site for cardiovascular services, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and research. The Care Group has 52 locations throughout Indiana with three Indianapolis flagship locations at St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana at 106th & North Meridian and at 86th Street and at Methodist Hospital. The Care Group physicians pioneered many treatments in cardiology including angioplasty, atherectomy and stents.

The Care Group is proud to be the exclusive provider of cardiac services for St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana, the #1 cardiovascular program in Indiana and in the top 5% in the United States for overall cardiac services as rated in both 2006 and 2007 by HealthGrades, America's leading provider of independent hospital ratings.

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