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Memorial, Springfield Clinic Offer Radial Access Catheterization

SPRINGFIELD – Memorial Medical Center and Springfield Clinic are offering an innovative cardiac catheterization procedure that uses patients' wrists, rather than the groin region, to access blood vessels leading to the heart.

The procedure, known as radial access catheterization, is performed in the cardiac cath labs at Memorial Medical Center. While the procedure is used widely in Europe and China, few hospitals in the United States offer it. An estimated 1.2 million cardiac catheterizations are done in the United States each year.

Patients receiving the radial access catheterization can often sit up and walk after the procedure while patients receiving the traditional catheterization typically need bed rest and observation. They may also have a faster overall recovery period and reduced bleeding, bruising and complications.

Three Springfield Clinic cardiologists specialize in radial access catheterization. They are Dr. Adeeb Ahmed, MD, Dr. Donald L. Yakel Jr., MD, and Dr. Christian A. Zellner, MD.

Memorial recently sent a dozen clinical staff, including members of its cath labs and two nursing units, to the University of Chicago for additional expert training on the procedure, said Drew Early, administrator of Memorial Heart and Vascular Services.

Cardiac catheterization is used as a tool to diagnose and treat certain heart conditions using a thin plastic tube, known as a catheter, which is inserted into an artery or vein and then advanced into the chambers of the heart or into the coronary arteries.

Memorial Medical Center, 701 N. First St., is a nonprofit, community-based hospital in the Mid-Illinois Medical District at Springfield. For more information about the hospital, visit ChooseMemorial.org.

Springfield Clinic is Illinois' second largest private multispecialty medical group. With more than 300 board-certified physicians and mid-level providers practicing in nearly 40 medical specialties, Springfield Clinic delivers high-quality patient care through its regional network of medical offices. For more information about Springfield Clinic, visit SpringfieldClinic.com.

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