

Physician Forum

Excellence Above All

AORTIC STENT GRAFT NOW BEING DONE AT STS. MARY & ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

The first endovascular aortic stent grafts to be implanted at Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital were completed on September 6, 2006. Dr. Franco Rea worked closely with interventional radiologists Dr. John Sunderland and Dr. Blair Cornell along with the team at Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital to place the grafts and provide a treatment never before offered at the facility.

The implantable device called an endoprosthesis is used to treat abdominal aortic aneurysms and is designed to help prevent an aneurysm from bursting. It is a tube composed of fabric supported by a metal mesh called a stent. An abdominal aortic aneurysm is a ballooning or swelling of the aorta caused by a weakening of the arterial wall which occurs in the abdominal area. Over time, blood pressure and other factors can cause this weak area to bulge like a balloon and eventually enlarge and rupture. The stent graft is implanted through an endovascular repair process and it seals tightly with the artery above and below the aneurysm. The graft is stronger than the weakened artery and allows blood to pass through it without pushing on the bulge.

The endovascular repair process provides a less invasive option than open surgery and can make a significant difference in terms of

recovery time. According to Dr. Rea, an average recovery time from the endovascular procedure is approximately two weeks. The stent is inserted by a catheter based delivery technique through small incisions in the patient's legs.

The traditional open surgical repair, which had been used in the past, involved a large incision made in the abdomen or side of the patient and recovery time averaged six to eight weeks.

While similar procedures have been performed throughout the city, this is the first time they've been performed in south Louisville. Jewish Hospital downtown has now been doing this procedure over six years.

The new service at Sts. Mary & Elizabeth provides residents in the south Louisville area and surrounding areas the ability to utilize this procedure without leaving their community.

For more information on the aortic stent grafts at Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital please call the interventional radiology department at (502) 361-6764.

Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare
Physician/Hospital Development
250 E. Liberty Street, Suite 201
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 568-6655 www.jhsmh.org

