Medical Center of Plano

New Cardiac Catheterization Lab Service Announcement

The Cardiac Cathlab will be performing Transcatheter Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)/ Patent Foreman Ovale (PFO) Closure Procedures starting in March.

ASD's are one of the most common adult congenital heart defects. Septal defects are sometimes referred to as a "hole" in the heart. A defect between the heart's two upper chambers (the atria) is called an atrial septal defect. There are three major types of atrial septal defects:

- **secundum atrial septal defect**
  This is the most common atrial septal defect. It is caused when a part of the atrial septum fails to close completely while the heart is developing. This causes an opening to develop between the atria.
- **primum atrial septal defect**
  This defect is part of the AV canals, and is often found at a split in the leaflet of the valve.
- **sinus venosus atrial septal defect**
  This defect occurs at the superior vena cava and right atrium juncture. In this defect, one or more of the pulmonary veins enter the right atrium instead of correctly entering the left atrium.

The majority of secundum atrial septal defects can be closed with a percutaneous catheter technique. Sinus venosus, coronary sinus, and primum defects are not amenable to device closure. The miniature umbrella like device is fed through a catheter that is placed in the vein of the patient's leg using just one small puncture. The catheter is led through the vein up to the heart where the device is placed to seal the hole. Patients may go home the same day or spend the night in the hospital.

Patent Foreman Ovale (PFO) is well a known cause of cryptogenic stroke. Incidence of stroke increases with concomitant atrial septal aneurysm. This type of stroke is common in patients with DVT, atrial fibrillation and hypercoaguable state. To diagnose a patent foramen ovale, one of two special tests is required:

- Transcranial Doppler (TCD)
- Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)

Both of these tests can be performed as an outpatient in the Department of Cardiology/Neurology. Patients with history of stroke and no definite cause, a PFO is found much more frequently than is found in people without a history of stroke. PFO Closures is a possible long term treatment

Dr. Akram Khan, who has practiced at Medical Center of Plano since 1997, is the first Cardiologist at MCP to receive privileges for performing this type procedure, Dr. Khan Stated "*This procedure enables physicians to treat patients at risk for stroke with a permanent solution. This way we can avoid future morbidity and long term anticoagulation"*.

Medical Center of Plano is proud to offer PFO/ASD service to our community as part of our comprehensive service to reduce disabling strokes and improve patient care. If you would like more information please contact 972-519-1307.