Advancements in Technology Benefit Cardiology Patients at Palos Community Hospital

Bio-Medicine.Org

PALOS HEIGHTS, Ill., Oct. 27 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Interventional cardiologists affiliated with Palos Community Hospital [1] are among the first in Chicago's southwest suburbs to embrace the transradial approach for heart angiograms and clearing blocked arteries. Transradial catheterization uses arteries in the wrist to access the heart, and it offers many improvements over the traditional approach by reducing bleeding complications, eliminating scarring and offering significantly shorter recovery periods.

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Cardiac catheterizations are performed to diagnose a heart problem or as part of a procedure to correct a problem that's already been diagnosed. The majority of people requiring catheterizations in the United States undergo a procedure that accesses the heart through the femoral artery in the leg, known as transfemoral access. However, advances in diagnostic technology, such as those at Palos Community Hospital, now show that the best path to the heart may be through the wrist.

"By going through the wrist rather than the groin, most patients experience less pain after the procedure, as well as a reduced risk of bleeding," explains Roy Bliley, M.D. [4], an interventional cardiologist affiliated with Palos Community Hospital. "When it comes to patient comfort, the benefits are great."

Although complications from standard catheterization through the groin are low, occurring in between only two and nine percent of patients, the transradial approach can reduce bleeding – the most common complication among women and the elderly – to less
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