

Minimally Invasive Procedure Can Replace Open-Heart Surgery For Eligible Heart Patients

The NCH Structural Heart Program is now offering a revolutionary new procedure TAVR (transcatheter aortic valve replacement) to patients with moderate to high risk for surgery and significant aortic stenosis.

Aortic stenosis is a narrowing of the aortic valve opening which restricts blood flow from the left ventricle to the aorta that leads to shortness of breath or fatigue when walking, dizziness or fainting, and chest pain. In later stages, the disease, which is diagnosed through echocardiogram, causes heart failure and even premature death.

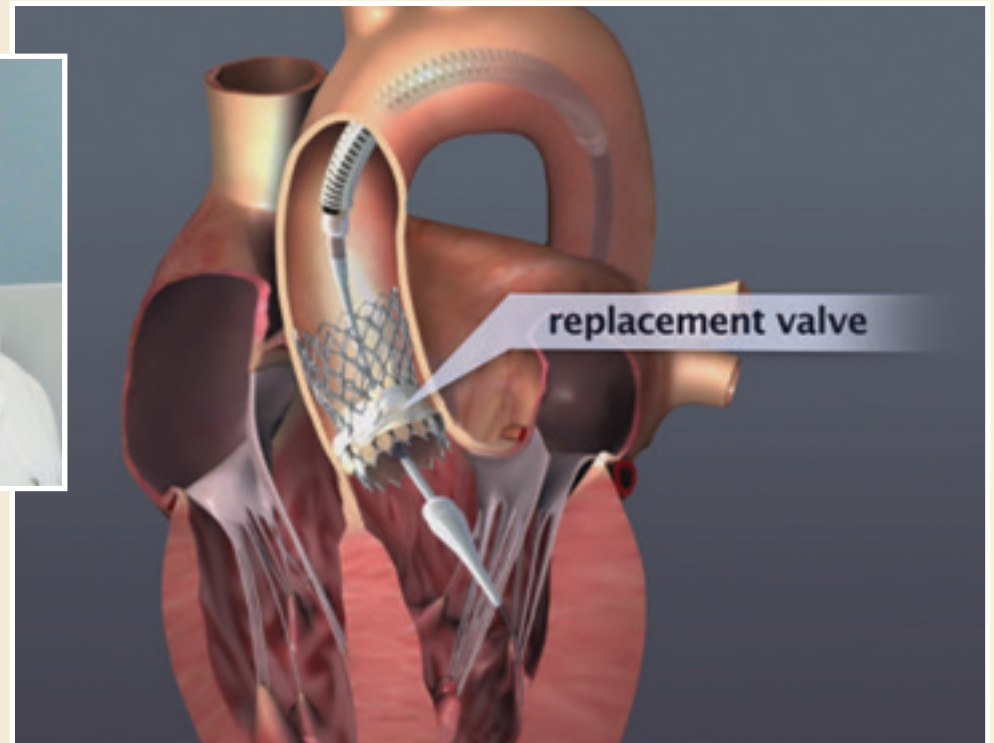
The current TAVR team includes two interventional cardiologists, Dr. Tracey Roth and Dr. Larry Leslie, cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Brian Solomon, and a Structural Heart Program Coordinator, Vanessa Russino, ARNP-BC. While most facilities have one surgeon and one interventional cardiologist, NCH has three specialists on every case. The team also includes anesthesiologists, cardiac catheterization lab staff, technicians, operating room staff, nurses, echo staff and more.

“During the TAVR procedure, we make an incision in the groin and replace the aortic valve, which regulates the blood flow between the pumping chamber in the body,” says Larry Leslie, MD, NCH Heart Institute Interventional Cardiologist.

Patients are discharged to home in two days and back on the golf course in a week. The patient’s breastbone remains intact and there is only a



Dr. Larry Leslie, MD



TAVR procedure

small incision in the groin similar to a cardiac catheterization. “There is almost immediate relief felt in the majority of the patients,” says Dr. Leslie. Within a month’s time, the scar will be indiscernible.

“Since the TAVR procedure has been perfected, we can now bring it to our community of patients so they do not need to travel elsewhere to have it done,” adds Dr. Leslie.

For more information about TAVR, contact the NCH Heart Institute at (239) 624-4200.