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SOPHISTICATED PROCEDURES a HALLMARK of HEART Program



Reginald Abraham, M.D.

The only accredited Chest Pain Center in Orange County, the Orange County Institute for Heart and Vascular Care at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital is a leader in the field of cardiac care. The array of advanced surgeries and techniques offered is more frequently associated with a university center than a community hospital. Here are some of the procedures that set Fountain Valley Regional Hospital apart:

Off-Pump Heart Surgery

Imagine surgery being done on a beating heart. That's what happens during off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery. Because the heart is not stopped, the patient does not need to be put on a heart-lung machine. The off-pump approach is associated with less need for blood transfusions,

decreased risk of stroke, shorter hospital stays and a quicker return to normal activities.

Transmyocardial Laser Revascularization (TMR)

This procedure relieves chest pain by using a laser to drill holes in the heart. It is believed that TMR stimulates angiogenesis, the new growth of blood vessels. The procedure is used for patients who are unable to undergo bypass surgery, and sometimes in conjunction with bypass surgery.

Surgical Atrial Fibrillation Ablation

Atrial fibrillation is a kind of arrhythmia (irregular heart beat) caused by extra pathways of electricity in the heart's electrical system. It can lead to stroke and other problems. Surgical atrial fibrillation ablation uses such energy sources as microwave and

radiofrequency to eradicate these extra pathways.

Stroke-Saving Heart Surgery

Reginald Abraham, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon affiliated with Fountain Valley Regional Hospital (FVRH), explains that the team at FVRH uses tools and techniques designed to minimize the chance of heart surgery causing stroke or other neuro-cognitive damage. These steps include identifying patients who may be at risk; using ultrasound on the aorta to avoid weak areas; using a filter to catch debris that may cause stroke, kidney or other damage (for

on-pump procedures, such as valve replacements); using medications that decrease inflammation; monitoring brain activity during surgery; and performing trans-esophageal echocardiogram on all patients with potential emboli (clots, bacteria, air or other things that can block blood vessels).

"Some hospitals are just beginning to adopt one or more of these strategies," notes Dr. Abraham. "Fountain Valley Regional Hospital has been offering these services to patients for some time."



ORANGE COUNTY INSTITUTE
HEART & VASCULAR CARE
at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital



Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

Tenet California

17100 Euclid Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

www.fountainvalleyhospital.com

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