

Expanding Heart Care

Second cath lab delivers upgraded technology and new capabilities

In early 2014, Southeast Georgia Health System built a new cardiac catheterization lab (cath lab) on its Brunswick Campus. Since then, demand for its cardiovascular and interventional X-ray imaging system has exploded, and it is easy to see why. People no longer have to travel out of the area for life-saving cardiac care. Fortunately, extra space was earmarked for an additional lab. The second lab, which opened in March 2016, increases the number of procedures that can be performed, while also offering technology upgrades, new capabilities and increased convenience.

Upgrades That Enhance Care

To ensure that patients receive the best care, the Health System added intracoronary imaging upgrades to both cath labs. The new intravascular ultrasound technology uses high-frequency sound waves to get detailed images of the artery walls, down to 2 millimeters in size. New fractional flow reserve capabilities use guided wires to measure blood flow and help determine whether a blockage is significant.

“If an image shows 50 percent blockage, it may not look that bad, but if we insert the wire, we may discover that it’s more serious than we thought,” says Michael H. Butler, M.D.,

DOCTOR YOUR HEART

To find a physician, call **855-ASK-SGHS (855-275-7447)**.

Michael H. Butler, M.D., FACC
Marsha J. Certain, M.D.
Matthew E. Certain, M.D.
James M. Heery, M.D., FACC
Mitchell T. Jones, M.D.
Mark T. Watkins, M.D., FACC
Gary W. Yawn Jr., M.D., FACC



FACC, board-certified interventional cardiologist, Coastal Cardiology, and medical director, Cardiology Services, Brunswick Campus. “This helps us better understand the blockage and take the appropriate course of action.”

Seeing a Bigger Picture

The addition of the second lab helps patients in yet another way: new services. While both cath labs offer imaging and intervention capabilities for the heart, the new lab includes these capabilities for the peripheral vasculature. Equipped with a larger camera, broader images of vessels in the legs and rest of the body can be obtained to diagnose blockages for patients complaining of leg cramps or an inability to walk distances.

Making Care More Convenient

“Having two labs also means we’re able to accommodate more patients with less delays or rescheduling when emergencies arise,” says Christy Buie, R.N., team leader, Cardiac Catheterization Services.

“Having more physicians helps, too,” added Mrs. Buie. “Since the first cath lab opened, two new interventional cardiologists have joined the Health System’s medical staff — Dr. Matthew Certain and Dr. Gary Yawn.” ●

Left to right: Susie Hamm, R.N., Michael H. Butler, M.D., FACC, and Christy Buie, R.N.

