



About the Institute

Allegheny General Hospital has long been renowned for its visionary approach to treating cardiovascular disease. Now, with the creation of the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute, the hospital brings its heart and vascular specialists and services together — in one convenient location. This state-of-the-art facility includes customized areas for patient examinations, consultations, laboratory testing and diagnostic procedures, as well as scheduling, registration, nursing support and lifestyle management programs.

Allegheny General Hospital is a 724-bed academic medical center serving Pittsburgh and the surrounding five-state area.

Founded in 1885 on Pittsburgh's historic North Side, the hospital has earned an international reputation for excellence and innovation in the care of patients, medical education and research. Allegheny General has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine as one of "America's Best Hospitals" for a number of clinical specialties. The hospital has also been lauded as one of America's top 25 medical centers by the AARP's *Modern Maturity* magazine.

Allegheny General Hospital—and its Suburban Campus in nearby Bellevue—annually admits 31,500 patients and logs about 60,000 emergency visits and more than 26,000 surgical procedures. Nearly 1,000 physicians and approximately 4,500 employees share the hospital's commitment to excellence.

A member of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, Allegheny General Hospital is a western Pennsylvania campus for the Philadelphia-based Drexel University College of Medicine; third- and fourth-year medical students receive clinical training at the hospital.



The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute

at Allegheny General Hospital

A part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System

The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute
320 East North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

1-877-97-HEART
www.mcginiscvi.org

© 2007 AGH
An equal opportunity employer
CARD-20066 jz 2.5M



Coronary Bypass Surgery

The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute
at Allegheny General Hospital



Allegheny General Hospital has been recognized as a leader in coronary bypass surgery.

For more than a half century, Allegheny General Hospital has been synonymous with the leading edge of cardiac surgery techniques and advancements. Allegheny General surgeons first achieved national recognition in the late 1950s while completing the first heart-valve replacement in Pennsylvania, and, in the 1960s, they performed one of the country's first heart transplants. Since then, the hospital has been recognized as a leader in key areas such as minimally invasive cardiac surgery and surgical therapies for heart failure.

Experience

Allegheny General's cardiac surgeons have performed over 35,000 open-heart operations during more than 50 years as a recognized leader in cardiac care. Today, the surgical team has over 100 years of active surgical practice, with team leaders having worked side by side for more than two decades. The team is supported by nurses and technical staff who have honed their skills during innumerable hours at the bedside, often caring for some of the region's most critically ill patients.

Excellence

Documented low patient mortality and complication rates result from surgical skill and dedication to quality improvement. Since the inception of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's coronary bypass project in 1992, Allegheny General's cardiac surgeons have consistently demonstrated lower than expected mortality, reduced costs and improved outcomes. For the current reporting cycle, these surgeons have posted one of the lowest mortality rates in the state.



Cardiac surgeons at Allegheny General Hospital utilize "gold standard" technologies.

The Comprehensive Approach to Coronary Bypass Surgery

Coronary artery bypass surgery is the most common type of heart surgery performed today. It is a serious operation and should be done by an experienced surgeon at a hospital with a documented history of excellence.

Cardiac surgeons at Allegheny General Hospital utilize a comprehensive coronary artery bypass program that emphasizes patient safety, proven surgical techniques and attention to long-term results.

The program emphasizes:

Detailed preoperative patient education

- Careful discussion with the surgeon
- Written educational materials designed for flexibility in learning styles
- Educational videos

Leading surgeon with an experienced team

- Consistent recognition for low mortality
- Validated preoperative risk assessment tools
- Detailed information management to track safety and outcomes data
- Use of "gold standard" surgical techniques
- Changes to techniques and protocols are evidence based.

A personal touch for patient care

- Daily unhurried visits from surgeons
- Dedicated and friendly nursing care
- Patient and family education

Attention to care after discharge

- "House calls" by telephone and e-mail
- Consultation with family doctors and cardiologists
- Help with smoking cessation, cholesterol control and long-term medication
- Commitment to reduce the need for readmission

Perfecting Outcomes In Cardiac Surgery

In 1988, cardiac surgeons at Allegheny General developed a comprehensive information management system to analyze and improve outcomes. Risk assessment tools derived from the system are used to identify patient risks prior to surgery, adding depth to patient education and guiding the selection of perioperative care protocols. The information system is used to identify opportunities for process improvement and to assess the results of problem-solving initiatives. Since the risk assessment database began, more than 17,000 patients had complete risk assessment data collected.

Allegheny General Hospital's cardiac surgeons are founding members of the Pittsburgh Regional Health-care Initiative's Cardiac Working Group. This consortium of western Pennsylvania surgeons and physicians is dedicated to continued improvement in health-care delivery and outcomes in coronary bypass surgery. The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery participates in the Highmark Hospital Performance Program and is a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons National Cardiac Surgery Database.