



MORE ABOUT CARDIAC SURGERY

PROVIDING EXPERT CARDIOVASCULAR CARE

 THE HEART &
VASCULAR CENTER

NORTH FLORIDA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

We are with you **for life.**

More About Cardiac Surgery

For patients with advanced heart disease, experienced physicians who are board-certified guide surgical interventions at North Florida Regional Medical Center. The surgical team also includes nurses and technicians with advanced training and certification in their respective fields, all dedicated to the philosophy of individualized patient care. The team is constantly searching for new ways to raise the bar with complication and mortality rates, as well as shortening hospital stay and recovery time. Thanks to the combination of state-of-the-art technology, expertise and compassionate care, patients of The Heart & Vascular Center can rely on surgeons, nurses and technicians to help them get better and back to their lives. Our cardiac surgery team performs 300 to 400 procedures each year. While some patients have a single cardiac surgery, others need more than one type of procedure. Surgeons routinely perform combination procedures for patients of The Heart & Vascular Center.



Cardiothoracic Surgeons Jeffery Snyder, MD and Richard Proia, MD work with specially trained OR staff at North Florida Regional Medical Center to perform 300 to 400 procedures each year.

Procedures

Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery

This procedure, often called CABG, is a type of surgery that improves blood flow to the heart. It's used for people who have severe coronary artery disease. The blood flow has been blocked by the build-up of a substance called plaque inside the arteries. During CABG, surgeons harvest a healthy artery or vein from the body and graft or connect it to the blocked coronary artery. The grafted artery or vein bypasses the blocked portion of the artery. Using best practice methods, our team has achieved complication rates significantly better than the national average and has reduced the time patients are on the heart-lung machine to levels well below the national average. A reduced time on the heart-lung machine is linked to improved outcomes and faster recovery following CABG surgery. Our team has also reduced total length of hospital stay for our CABG patients. For many patients, this means a hospital stay that is two days shorter than the national average.

Valve Surgery

Blood is pumped through your heart in only one direction. Heart valves play a key role in this one-way blood flow, opening and closing with each heartbeat. When valves are diseased and not functioning properly, surgery is often needed to repair or replace the valves. There are 4 valves in the heart – aortic, mitral, tricuspid and pulmonary. Most valve surgeries are done to repair or replace the mitral or aortic valves. These valves are on the left side of the heart, which works harder than the right. They control the flow of oxygen-rich blood from the lungs to the rest of the body. At North Florida Regional, surgery is performed for patients with disorders of all of the heart's valves. Comparing patient outcome data to national benchmarks reveals a high level of quality in valve surgery at North Florida Regional with mortality rates, complication rates and length of stay significantly better than the national average. As in CABG surgery, valve surgery patients also benefit from the lesser amount of time on the heart lung machine.

Closing Holes in the Heart

Most holes in the heart that need treatment are repaired in infancy or early childhood. For some patients, these holes are undiagnosed and only detected when they are scheduled for a different kind of cardiac surgery. A patent foramen ovale (PFO) or atrial septal defect (ASD) can be closed by our surgeons at the same time another procedure such as CABG, valve surgery or arrhythmia correction is performed.

Heart Arrhythmia Correction

Atrial fibrillation (AF or AFib) is the most common irregular heart rhythm in the United States. In addition to causing uncomfortable symptoms related to a rapid heart beat, atrial fibrillation increases the risk of stroke significantly and may cause congestive heart failure. At one time, a cure for atrial fibrillation was not possible, but advanced treatments now offer a cure for some patients. One of those treatments, the modified MAZE procedure, is performed at North Florida Regional. It involves scarring of targeted tissues to inhibit the electrical impulses that initiate AFib. The procedure is performed endoscopically through four tiny, one-cm key-hole incisions in the spaces between the ribs. Tiny incisions mean less pain, smaller scars, a shorter hospital stay and a quicker return to normal activity.



Getting ready

Our brochure, 'Surgery at North Florida Regional Medical Center,' contains information to help you prepare for your procedure and stay with us. If you have questions after reading it, please don't hesitate to ask your physician.



On Surgery Day

For your convenience and safety, parking is free and available in the garage located on the west side of the hospital across from the Emergency Department, where valet parking is also offered. Free parking is also available in the garage located next to the Women's Center on the east side of the hospital.

On the day of surgery, please arrive at the main entrance of the hospital and take the elevators on your right to the third floor lobby and check in at the registration desk. Family members and loved ones remain in the waiting area until your surgical preparation is complete and can then join you as you wait to be taken to OR. The length of surgical times varies, and staff will keep family and loved ones informed throughout the surgery process.

For cardiovascular information or referral to a cardiovascular specialist, please call Consult-A-Nurse® at 800-611-6913.

www.NFRMC.com

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