



MORE ABOUT VASCULAR AND ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY

PROVIDING EXPERT CARDIOVASCULAR CARE

 THE HEART &
VASCULAR CENTER

NORTH FLORIDA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

We are with you **for life.**



Vascular Surgeons Elmer Croushore, MD and Alexander Rim, MD work with specially trained OR staff at North Florida Regional Medical Center to perform new endovascular treatment options, as well as time-honored operative techniques used for more complex vascular problems.

More About Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Vascular disease is a narrowing or blockage in the body's vascular system (veins and arteries), which carries blood from your heart throughout your body. Vascular disease can block part or all of the flow of blood in your veins or arteries, which can lead to more serious conditions such as high blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, aneurysm, carotid artery disease or peripheral artery disease. More than 60 million Americans currently have one or more types of vascular disease that can lead to disability and death. The good news is that advances in vascular surgery make minimally invasive endovascular procedures possible for many patients, offering them excellent outcomes and rapid recovery. Our vascular surgery team specializes in the diagnosis and management of carotid artery disease, aortic aneurysms and poor circulation to the legs and the abdominal organs. Working closely with other specialists in cardiovascular disease, they provide the most appropriate treatment for more than one thousand patients each year from North Central Florida.

Vascular Surgery Specialty Services

Arteriogram – an imaging test that uses x-rays and a special dye to see inside the arteries. It can be used to see arteries in the heart, brain, kidney and many other parts of the body. An arteriogram helps vascular surgeons see how blood moves through the arteries and to check for any blocked or damaged arteries. Often, treatments are performed at the same time as an arteriogram.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair – a procedure that protects a section of the aorta that has ballooned and is in danger of rupturing. For some patients, endovascular grafting is possible. Endovascular grafting is the minimally invasive method of treatment and is performed inside your aorta using thin, long tubes called catheters to place a stent surrounded with a fabric liner to reinforce the weak spots. For other patients, a traditional open surgical repair is the best treatment.

Atherosclerosis Endarterectomy – the open surgical removal of plaque from a blood vessel. The goal of treatment is to eliminate the build-up of plaque in your arteries.

Carotid Endarterectomy removes plaque from the artery that supplies blood to the brain and is often recommended for patients who have had a mild stroke. Femoral Endarterectomy is a similar operation to carotid endarterectomy in which the diseased lining of the artery can be removed and blood flow restored.

Bypass Surgery for Vascular Disease – procedures that reroute blood flow around a blocked blood vessel by creating a new pathway for blood flow using a graft. The goal is to re-direct the blood flow in the artery to bypass a blockage. The essential problem in all patients undergoing bypass surgery to the lower legs is that insufficient oxygen-carrying blood is able to reach the tissues of the leg and foot. Bypass operations work by improving the blood supply and, thus, the oxygen supply to the tissues that have been starved of oxygen. The vascular surgery team at North Florida Regional performs bypass surgeries for all vessels of the body.

Hybrid Procedures – performed for patients when a minimally invasive endovascular approach is not possible for the entire procedure. In those cases, Dr. Croushore uses an open surgical approach for the beginning of the procedure and removes an arterial blockage; then, Dr. Rim performs an endovascular procedure to repair vessels below the blockage and places a stent to protect the vessel. Working together in hybrid procedures increases the number of patients who benefit from the endovascular approach.

Vascular Access for Dialysis – created by a surgeon in the operating room for patients who will be undergoing chronic hemodialysis for kidney disease. This vascular access is the patient's life line, and special care is necessary to make sure that it continues to function properly. Vascular access is possible in different ways, and the right access must be individualized for each patient. The vascular surgery team at North Florida Regional is skilled and experienced in creating all types of vascular access.

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.



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. Parking is also possible 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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