

[HEALTHY]
Living



Quality Heart Care in the Heart of East Texas

Cardiology services at Good Shepherd Medical Center continue to expand with the addition of new cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons who bring a variety of procedures to Longview.

In the past year, Good Shepherd has made a major investment by developing the Good Shepherd Cardiology practice, which includes Christopher Boylan, MD, Terry Gerber, MD, and Shafik Hanna-Moussa, MD. Good Shepherd Cardiology offers services

including electrocardiograms (EKG), cardiac catheterization, nuclear cardiology, echocardiograms (ultrasound studies of the heart), stress echocardiogram testing, cardiac rhythm monitoring services, treatment for heart failure and more. Good Shepherd Cardiology services are offered exclusively at Good Shepherd Medical Center's award-winning Heart Center.

Along with Good Shepherd Cardiology's wide range of services, Dr. Moussa is one of the few physicians in Longview who offers eligible patients a choice of using a radial artery approach for cardiac catheterization. This approach uses arteries from the wrists instead of the legs.

"By using arteries located in the wrist, we are decreasing the risk of blood clots and reducing the patient's initial recovery time," Moussa said.

"When we use arteries from the leg, the patient is usually on bed rest for up to six hours, but by using the wrist arteries we can decrease that time and allow the patient to get up and moving sooner."

Radial artery catheterization is a much gentler method than the traditional methods of cardiac catheterization and stent placement. Although Dr. Moussa is using this approach more frequently, not all patients qualify for the radial method. Dr. Moussa recommends this procedure to patients depending on their medical histories and a thorough physical examination.

Cardiac catheterization is a procedure to examine blood flow to the heart and test how well the heart is

pumping. Cardiologists insert a thin plastic tube called a catheter into an artery or vein. From those arteries, the catheter can be advanced into the chambers of the heart or the arteries that supply blood to the heart muscle to find out where a blockage is located. With this procedure, the cardiologist can test several factors including blood pressure within the heart, the amount of oxygen in the blood, and the ability of the heart muscle to effectively pump blood to the lungs, brain, and the rest of the body. The Good Shepherd Medical Center Heart Center is equipped with three fully equipped catheterization laboratories, with one lab being fully outfitted for electrophysiology (EP) studies. In 2010, the Heart Center performed 41,885 invasive and non-invasive cardiac procedures, including Longview's first atrial fibrillation ablation procedure.

"We're offering good, high quality cardiology services and want people to know there are local options so they don't have to go out of town for their treatment," Boylan said.

According to Dr. Moussa, heart disease is very prevalent in East Texas, and as the population of the community ages, the need for cardiologists and their services will only grow. Good Shepherd Cardiology is prepared to meet that need.

Dr. Christopher Boylan is board certified in cardiology and nuclear cardiology and Dr. Shafik Hanna-Moussa is board certified in interventional cardiology, echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, cardiovascular computed tomography and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Gerber is board certified in cardiology and echocardiography. Drs. Boylan and Hanna-Moussa are currently seeing patients in Longview and Boylan also sees patients every Tuesday in Henderson. Dr. Gerber sees patients in her Marshall office.



To schedule an appointment with Dr. Boylan or Dr. Moussa, please call (903) 315-4880 (physician referral needed for select insurances). Good Shepherd Cardiology is located in Longview across from Good Shepherd Medical Center in Medical Plaza II, suite 3000.



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