

# CENTER FOR HEART FAILURE THERAPY AND TRANSPLANTATION

*For patients with heart failure, the future has never looked more promising.*

The Center for Heart Failure Therapy (CHFT) at EMORY HEALTHCARE provides state-of-the-art evaluation and management for adult patients with heart failure across the entire spectrum and at all stages of the disease. More importantly, it offers hope. From congenital heart diseases to asymptomatic left ventricular failure to progressively worsening congestive heart failure, our expert team is skilled in the most advanced medical interventions to improve heart function, prolong life, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and enhance quality of life.

The Center uses a comprehensive disease management approach, in which communication between the health care providers, and patients and their families is equally as important as medical evaluations and treatment. Patient and family education is an essential component of our program. By educating patients and their families about their heart disease and ways in which they can take better care of themselves at home, we have been successful at improving our patients' quality of life, reducing the need for repeated, long-term hospital stays and empowering patients with tools to partner with us in taking care of their own health. In addition to the standard medications, the Center offers cutting-edge options such as FDA-approved investigational drugs and devices, remote monitoring with implanted physiological sensors, innovative cardiac surgery and, in select patients, heart transplantation or ventricular assist devices.

## **One of the Country's Most Successful Heart Transplant Programs**

Emory's Heart Transplant program ranks among the top centers in the nation. This is made possible by our highly skilled surgeons and through successful use of high-end technology, integration of research, coordination of education and excellent patient care. Since 1988, Emory Clinic cardiothoracic surgeons have performed more than 500 adult heart transplants, and more than 200 pediatric heart transplants.

Emory's surgeons perform an average of 23 adult heart transplants each year and have a one-year post-transplant survival rate of 91 percent. In addition to heart transplantation, our surgeons are highly experienced with implanting artificial heart pumps, also known as ventricular assist devices (VADs). These devices can be used as a bridge to transplant if a suitable donor is not available for urgent transplantation or as destination therapy in some cases where transplantation is not possible. After surgery, patients are closely supported by the cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons and transplant/VAD coordinators. With the combined strength of the medical and surgical cardiac teams, heart transplant and VAD patients can be sure they are getting the most innovative and sophisticated care that can be provided anywhere, nationally or internationally.

## **On the Forefront of Research**

The Center for Heart Failure Therapy is proud to have a robust research program that includes investigative activities spanning the entire spectrum of heart failure. A major Emory research initiative is The Atlanta Cardiomyopathy Consortium, a longitudinal cohort study to assess the genomic, psychosocial-behavioral and medical determinants of response to treatment and outcomes among heart failure patients. This study will also examine the changes in biomarkers and gene expression serially over time to determine how to best treat heart failure patients. Another area of research focus is "remote monitoring" (invasive and non-invasive) of heart failure. In the future, these systems may be used by physicians and nurses to manage patients using information transmitted through devices and information technology without having the patient actually visit the clinic. Additional studies include research in the areas of VADs, new immunosuppressant therapy, drug and device trials, NIH-funded basic science research and studies in collaboration with Emory's School of Nursing.

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EMORYHEALTHCARE

EMORY HEART & VASCULAR CENTER

*Advancing the Possibilities<sup>®</sup>*

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