

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

UMMC CARDIOLOGIST IMPLANTS HEART VALVE WITHOUT OPEN-HEART SURGERY

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Photo attached.

JACKSON, Miss. – Dr. Makram R. Ebeid, pediatric cardiologist and professor of pediatrics, has successfully performed a transcatheter pulmonary heart valve replacement procedure for the first time in the state, a nonsurgical alternative to open-heart surgery.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center is the first hospital in the region to offer the minimally invasive procedure that serves as a new tool in the treatment of congenital heart defects and damaged heart valves. Prior to the development of this capability, patients wanting to have this procedure would have to travel out of state.

"This is a great benefit for the patients, Mississippi, and UMMC. Families can stay in the state, and the recovery period with this procedure compared to open-heart surgery is shorter. Patients can have a one-day hospital stay instead of 5-7 days," Ebeid said.

Managing congenital heart defects that impact the function of the pulmonary valve has long-required multiple open heart surgeries throughout a patient's lifetime. Now, patients may be candidates for the procedure that allows a cardiologist to deliver a replacement valve through a catheter in the cardiovascular system, requiring only a small incision in the groin.

The procedure is FDA approved under a special protocol for both pediatric and adult patients.

"To reopen the chest many times is obviously uncomfortable for the patient but also comes with great risk. With this replacement valve, we can delay the patient's next surgical intervention," Ebeid said.

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The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's citizens. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health

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