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Advanced and Innovative Cardiothoracic Surgery The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton

Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery

Cardiothoracic surgeons on the medical staff at The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton are leaders in newer minimally invasive cardiothoracic surgical procedures. Minimally invasive procedures often require smaller incisions, which usually results in reduced blood loss, less pain, quicker recovery times and a reduction in risk and complications. These procedures allow surgeons to perform complex surgery on high-risk patients, very elderly patients for whom open surgery may not be the best approach or patients who require repeat procedures.

Off-Pump Coronary Artery Bypass

Traditional coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) is performed with the patient on a cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) machine. While the CPB pump temporarily takes over the function of the heart and lungs during surgery, the process can have negative multisystem effects on the body, including decreased cognitive function post-op, coagulopathy, and renal and pulmonary issues.

At The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton, more than 95 percent of coronary artery bypasses are performed on a beating heart in a procedure called off-pump coronary artery bypass (OPCAB). With this technique, most patients are extubated in the OR and are able to eat and walk the same day of surgery. The average length of stay is approximately three to four days as compared to the national average of six days. This approach also eliminates the risk of complications from use of the heart-lung machine.



Tung Cai, MD
Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery

“Off-pump coronary artery bypass is a very technically demanding procedure, but the surgeons on our medical staff have readily embraced the learning process and the skills that it takes to perform it,” says Tung H. Cai, MD, medical director of cardiothoracic surgery at The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton.

Valve Replacement and Repair

At The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton, aortic valves are replaced or repaired through mini-sternotomies. These incisions are substantially smaller and less traumatic than the standard sternotomy. Minimally invasive incisions are approximately half the size of the standard sternotomy incisions.

Atrial Fibrillation

To treat patients with atrial fibrillation, The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton offers surgical ablation, also known as the Maze procedure, and left atrial appendage ligation. Both procedures help reduce the risk of stroke and are performed thoracoscopically through very small incisions in the chest wall.

Thoracic Surgery

Surgeons on the medical staff at The Heart Hospital Baylor Denton perform a high volume of minimally invasive lung surgeries, including lobectomies and wedge resections for lung cancer. Utilizing thoracoscopic techniques, surgeons access the lungs through small port incisions. These techniques usually decrease pain and length of hospital stay.

Treatment is available for a wide range of disorders, including:

- Aneurysms
- Congenital heart disorders
- Coronary artery disease
- Esophageal cancer
- Gastroesophageal reflux and other disorders
- Heart failure
- Heart rhythm disorders
- Heart valve disorders
- Lung cancer
- Tumors of the chest wall, chest, and mediastinum

For information on Advanced Cardiothoracic Surgery visit us online at TheHeartHospitalBaylor.com/Denton