

BREAKING NEWS: Vein Center Receives National Accreditation



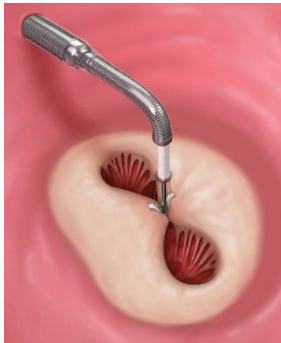
On June 10, Virtua Vein & Vascular Experts in Voorhees received full three-year accreditation in superficial venous evaluation and management from the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC).

Founded in 1991 by medical professionals to advance appropriate utilization, standardization, and quality of diagnostic imaging and intervention-based procedures, IAC provides accreditation programs for vascular testing, echocardiography, nuclear/PET, MRI, diagnostic CT, dental CT, carotid stenting, vein treatment and management, cardiac electrophysiology, and cardiovascular catheterization. IAC-accredited programs are dedicated to ensuring and promoting quality patient.

The clinicians at Virtua Vein & Vascular Experts provide the latest minimally invasive treatments for the full range of venous and vascular disorders, from varicose and spider veins to deep vein thrombosis.

Stay tuned for more information as we communicate this achievement to the community.

Virtua Structural Heart Team Expands Use of MitraClip in Heart Failure Patients with Functional MR



On Monday, April 19, the structural heart team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital successfully performed its first two MitraClip procedures for functional (or secondary) mitral regurgitation on patients with heart failure.

First approved by the FDA in late 2013 for severe, symptomatic primary mitral regurgitation, Abbott's MitraClip remains the only transcatheter mitral valve repair (TMVR) device on the market. Operators perform transcatheter edge-to-edge repair (TEER) by using the device to clip together the leaflets of the mitral valve. The FDA expanded the indication for MitraClip to include secondary, or "functional," MR in 2019 with CMS inclusion in January 2021. This includes functional mitral regurgitation resulting from heart failure, according to a [revised National Coverage Determination](#) (NCD). Functional MR may occur in patients with heart failure and left ventricular dilatation. Severity of functional MR is strongly associated with decreased quality of life, increased rates of hospitalization for heart failure, and shortened patient survival.

Both patients had a severely diminished ejection fraction with severe MR. The team, led by Ibrahim Moussa, DO, implanted a single clip (the new and improved MitraClip G4) in each patient, which reduced the severity of the MR to mild. Previously, two or three clips were needed to repair the valve. The team included Thierry Momplaisir, MD, Kirk McMurtry, MD,

and Scott Gabler, MD, a true example of a multidisciplinary team approach for optimal patient outcomes.

“The new clip is longer and wider. We can get away with a single clip and have very positive results,” said Dr. Moussa. “The procedure is shorter and the patient needs less anesthesia.”

The clip is complementary to medication therapy, and thanks to increased blood flow, the patient feels a greater amount of energy and less shortness of breath.

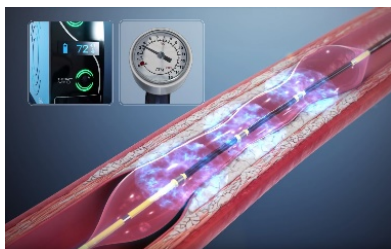
Both patients, a 73-year-old Willingboro woman and a 59-year-old Hainesport man, went home the day after their procedures.

“A lot of hard work took place behind the scenes to reach this milestone,” said Dr. Moussa. “I want to congratulate and thank the team and administrative staff for making this important therapy available to our heart failure patients. I also want to thank Dr. Harry South and Dr. Jeff Namey for referring the two patients.”

Valve Clinic Update

Thank you for the ongoing support of the Valve Clinic to all of our cardiology partners. To date, there have been over 100 referrals processed through the Valve Clinic for various valvular disease processes. The Valve Clinic has assisted with accurate diagnosis, active surveillance of valve pathology, and timely referral for intervention (surgical vs. percutaneous) at guideline-directed trigger points. For any questions regarding the Valve Clinic or how the team can best serve your patients, please contact Stephen Bechtel at SBechtel@virtua.org or 856-325-4290, or Teresa Sousa at TSousa@virtua.org.

Virtua Cardiac Team First in South Jersey to Perform New 'Shockwave' Procedure



The interventional cardiac team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital performed South Jersey’s first Shockwave intravascular lithotripsy to treat a patient with a blockage in the coronary arteries. The treatment opens clogged heart arteries that are especially difficult to unblock due to hard calcium deposits or twists in the arteries. Shockwave, which received FDA approval in late February, utilizes waves of sonic pressure to fracture calcium buildup within a blood vessel so to allow the deployment of a stent.

The patient, a 51-year-old man on dialysis to treat his chronic kidney failure, had already undergone several cardiac procedures, including bypass surgery after suffering a series of heart attacks. According to John Finley, IV, MD, who performed the procedure, the patient was not a candidate for additional open-heart surgery, and the condition of his arteries put him at high

risk for traditional atherectomy. Shockwave proved to be the best and safest option. The procedure took about an hour. The patient stayed overnight in the hospital and returned home to recover with marked improvement in his chest pain symptoms.

Research Department Offers Patients Shot at Cutting-Edge Solutions



Virtua Health's Research Department offers your patients the opportunity to participate in clinical trials in a number of therapeutic areas. The department combines Lourdes' experience focusing on cardiac research with Virtua's broader reach, including COVID-19 therapies and oncology trials through Penn Medicine.

Trial sponsors – device makers, pharmaceuticals, and government – have come to appreciate our ability to provide clean data. Historically, most trials at Virtua were phase 3 or post-market studies. COVID-19 has provided Virtua with the opportunity to start participating in more phase 2 trials to offer more treatment options to our patients. Virtua is currently participating in 138 research projects. Presently, cardiology is actively enrolling individuals in 21 trials.

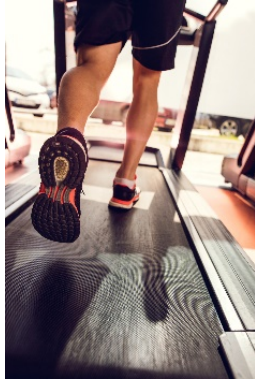
Research at Virtua is led by Robert Post, MD, MS, chair, department of family medicine, and physician scientist, Virtua Center for Learning; AnneMarie Palatnik, AVP of clinical learning & academic affiliations; Jillian Hoopes, director of research administration; and Donna Palazzo, manager of research. Cardiac trials are guided by Director of Electrophysiology Darius Sholevar, MD.

"Research is at the heart of modern medicine. Without research, we would never know the best modalities to treat disease or the most efficient and cost-effective ways to diagnose various conditions," said Dr. Post. "Take the COVID-19 pandemic, for example. Thanks to the research done here at Virtua, and at hospitals all over the world, we were able to find the best treatments to treat COVID, study the strategies to prevent it, and most importantly, develop and study the vaccines that have saved countless lives and can finally get us back to normal."

"While evidence-based medicine is a critical element of conventional care, advances in therapy require investigation of new modalities in new populations. In order to provide the best possible care, we must sometimes push beyond the limits of known data," said Dr. Sholevar. "At Virtua, the diligent work of the research physicians and coordinators give our patients access to novel therapies that would not otherwise have been available. In order to continue to provide the best possible care to our patients, Virtua Health remains committed to outstanding quality care and ongoing clinical research."

For more information on cardiac trials, contact Dr. Sholevar at dsholevar@virtua.org.

Cardiopulmonary Rehab Services for Your Patients



Although an important part of the recovery process, cardiac rehabilitation is an underutilized service across the country. Virtua’s comprehensive Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Program, comprised of specialized cardiac and pulmonary rehab services, and now a specialized peripheral artery disease (PAD) program, are designed to help your patients rebuild strength, increase mobility, and relieve symptoms.

Conveniently located across Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties, these programs provide carefully monitored exercises and education, with customized plans based on their condition and capabilities.

To order through Epic, choose “Ambulatory Referral” then select the specific type of cardiopulmonary rehab that’s required.

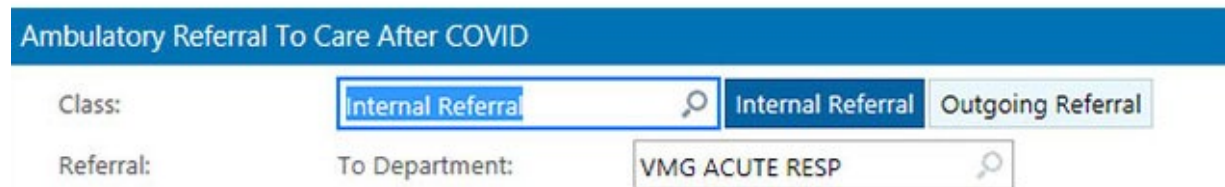
For more information on the programs, eligibility, and locations, visit virtua.org/CardiopulmonaryRehab.

Program Aids Recovery of Patients with Post-COVID Syndrome



Virtua has launched Care After COVID, an evaluation and recovery program designed to help patients with long-haul COVID-19 symptoms. Recent studies suggest that more than 30% of patients experience symptoms weeks, even months after recovering from COVID. Through this program, our navigators are connecting patients to appropriate care with the goal of helping them reclaim their life before COVID.

For referring physicians with access to Epic, there is an option to refer a patient into the program by choosing the “Ambulatory Referral to Care After COVID” option. With that selection, the Care After COVID team will manage the referral from there. See the image below.



Ambulatory Referral To Care After COVID

Class: Internal Referral

Referral:

Individuals may also self-refer by calling **856-325-3200**.

Care After COVID begins with a virtual visit, where the patient’s symptoms are reviewed and a full medical evaluation is established with one of our physicians. From there, the patient and doctor develop a customized treatment plan tailored to the patient’s specific conditions.

Virtua's team works with the patient to coordinate visits and follow-up appointments and ensures the referring physician is kept informed.

To learn more, visit this [link](#) on Virtua.org, or call **856-325-3200**.

Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium - Saturday, Sept. 11

Mark your calendars for the annual Virtua Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium, scheduled to take place on **Saturday, Sept. 11**. This will be the 11th year Virtua Cardiology has held this event to educate primary care practitioners, physicians, NPs, and PAs on news and trends in cardiovascular care. In addition to 5.5 AOA Category 1-A and 5.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™, this year the program offers 5.5 nursing contact hours.

The symposium is part of the Rowan series designed specifically for primary care providers, to better prepare them for the management of their patients. The cardiology section is expected to feature topics on the cardiovascular impact of COVID, cardiovascular health care disparities, congenital heart disease and pediatrics, cardiovascular pre-operative risk assessment, geriatric cardiology, cardiovascular sports clearance after COVID, and EKG interpretation and interaction.

More details will be made available as the date approaches.

Latest *Today* Series Physician Newsletter Now Posted to Digital 411

Our library of publications for and about Virtua clinicians has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under "[Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.](#)" There, you can find archived copies of *The Virtua Cardiologist*, as well as a growing *Today* series of physician newsletters focused on Virtua's specialty services. The series includes [Cardiology Today](#), which features articles on contractility therapy, as well as the ACC accreditation of the electrophysiology laboratory at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. [Cardiovascular Medicine Today](#) features articles on clot retrieval in lungs and improved methods for closure of refluxed veins in extremities.