

## **Virtua's EP Team First in Nation to Implant Investigational Defibrillation Lead**



Virtua heart rhythm specialist Aatish Garg, MD, under the leadership of Darius Sholevar, MD, Virtua chief of electrophysiology, enrolled the very first U.S. patient in study of an investigational defibrillation lead designed to treat people with ventricular tachycardia (VT).

Virtua is one of 47 hospitals worldwide participating in a clinical trial called the Lead Evaluation for Defibrillation and Reliability (LEADR). The LEADR study, sponsored by Medtronic, will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational, catheter-delivered lead in adult patients who have previously experienced, or are at significant risk of developing, VT. The lead is paired with commercially available Medtronic defibrillators.

Participation in the study highlights the work of Virtua's Clinical Research program. In recent years, the program has expanded and evolved, adding to its capabilities (in therapeutic areas like oncology and women's health) by joining with the former Lourdes team that primarily focused cardiac research. Virtua Clinical Research is overseeing more than 150 studies.

To learn more about the LEADR trial, contact [coordinator, Marisa Brown at mbrown3@virtua.org](mailto:mbrown3@virtua.org). For information specific to cardiac trials, contact Dr. Sholevar at [dsholevar@virtua.org](mailto:dsholevar@virtua.org).