

# Saint Francis Hospital Achieves Five-Stars

Saint Francis Hospital recently received a top five-star rating for the quality of its joint replacement surgery by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings company. It has also received five-stars for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Saint Francis Hospital has been ranked among the top ten hospitals in West Virginia for joint replacement for the past six years, and is best-rated in the Charleston-Huntington Area for overall pulmonary services.

According to Dan Lauffer, COO of Thomas Health System, receiving the five star rating validates Saint Francis Hospital's commitment to quality in patient care. "It is especially meaningful to have an independent ratings company recognize the quality of care given at this hospital," he said. "We are proud of the efforts of our medical staff, nursing professionals and ancillary staff in making this designation possible."

In developing its 2009 healthcare quality ratings, HealthGrades analyzed more than 41 million Medicare hospitalization

records from 2005 to 2007 at the nation's approximately 5,000 non-federal hospitals. Hospitals with outcomes that are above average to a statistically significant degree receive a five-star rating. Hospitals with average outcomes receive a three-star rating, and hospitals with outcomes that are below average receive a one-star rating.

"Quality of care and patient satisfaction continues to be a huge focus for us," says Lauffer. "The recognition we have received for both inpatient satisfaction and quality in our joint replacement and pulmonary programs tells us that our efforts are working." ■



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## SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL

# The Most Accurate Images

Saint Francis's 3-D Cardiovascular CT arms your physician with a revolutionary non-invasive way to view and evaluate with remarkable clarity your heart, coronary arteries and vessels. That's why we're so proud of our new 64-slice state-of-the-art CT Scanner. For a hospital whose reputation has long been "high touch," we're pleased that we are also a "high tech" facility as the newest part of the Thomas Health System.

Our new GE VCT© scanner takes 64 credit-card-thin pictures of the heart and/or vascular system per rotation, with the actual scan taking only about 45 seconds. Because of the speed of our scanner, your physician will have the most accurate representation ever of your heart's anatomy and vascular system – a critical tool in spotting blockages. Saint Francis also offers "Prospective Gating," a technique that can reduce radiation exposure by up to 80% compared to most other CT Scanners.

If you've experienced chest pain, undergone inconclusive heart tests or have a family history of heart problems, discuss a Cardiac CT Scan with your physician. Or, if you have questions, call Saint Francis Hospital at (304) 347-6730. ■

### Grocery Store Tours

Richard McGinnis, Program Coordinator and Diabetes Educator for Thomas Memorial Hospital, will be hosting Grocery Store Tours on Wednesday, November 12th at 9:00am and again at 11:00am at the Kroger Dunbar Village. These tours will help educate people regarding the nutritional information and how best to shop for your health. The tours are open to anyone in the community. Registration is required by calling (304) 766-3431 for one of the two planned tours. ■

## THOMAS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

# Technology: Leading the Way

Therapeutic hypothermia is emerging as a new treatment with great promise for preserving brain function after cardiac arrest, stroke, brain injury, trauma, high fevers unresponsive to medications and other critical illnesses, according to studies in the New England Journal of Medicine and other top-tier journals.

"The medical community has known for years that decreasing the body temperature then slowly warming back up immediately after the event, the damage to the heart and nervous system is greatly reduced. The challenge has been in doing this safely and under a controlled environment," said Dr. Tom Takubo, a physician at Thomas Memorial Hospital specializing in pulmonary and critical care medicine. The time is here.

**Arctic Sun** is the leading therapeutic temperature management device. Non-invasive cooling with the Arctic Sun is not only fast and efficient in reducing core body temperature, but safe – with less risk of DVTs, infection or bleeding prevalent with catheter-based cooling technologies in use at some other hospitals.

"Arctic Sun is a revolutionary device," said Takubo. "This process has been shown to significantly improve survival from cardiac arrest and neurological complications. Now, approximately one in six patients who may not have survived, have a much better rate of survival with this procedure," said Takubo.

The technology doesn't stop there. Thomas Memorial Hospital is using a new minimally invasive technology to diagnose lung disease and lung cancer earlier. A highly advanced piece of new technology, called **SuperDimension**

allows for the possibility to detect lung cancer early, even before symptoms are evident, enhancing treatment options for patients. And in West Virginia, it can be found only at Thomas Memorial Hospital.

"Traditionally, if a patient has a tumor or nodule outside a major airway, the ways to access that area involve surgery or fine needle aspiration for a biopsy, often resulting in collapse of the lung. SuperDimension is a minimally invasive procedure that does not carry the risks often associated with surgery," stated Takubo. It uses electromagnetic navigation to guide the physician through the patient's airways. This allows the physician to take tissue samples in regions of the lungs that are not reachable with traditional bronchoscopy.

"This new technology is GPS for the lungs," said Takubo.

How does it work? Prior to the procedure, the patient's chest CT-Scan is loaded onto a computer creating a virtual "roadmap" of the lungs. Prior to the procedure, the physician can perform the procedure "virtually," allowing them to map a route to the suspect tissue. During the procedure, a bronchoscope is placed through the patient's mouth and into the airways of the lungs. Electromagnetic sensors guide a real-time catheter to the exact location where the physician wants to take a tissue sample. A sample is then taken and sent to the lab for diagnosis. SuperDimension represents a promising new approach for detecting lung cancer earlier. Early detection of lung cancer is often easier to treat, has a higher survival rate and potentially offers patients more treatment options.



Dr. John Deel (pictured above)

Dr. Tom Takubo (pictured right)

Dr. John Deel, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Thomas Memorial Hospital was instrumental in bringing SuperDimension to Thomas. "There are less than 60 SuperDimension's in the United States," stated Deel. "I consider myself to be one of the most aggressive lung cancer specialists in the valley and this technology will make huge strides in the early detection of lung cancer," stated Deel. ■

