



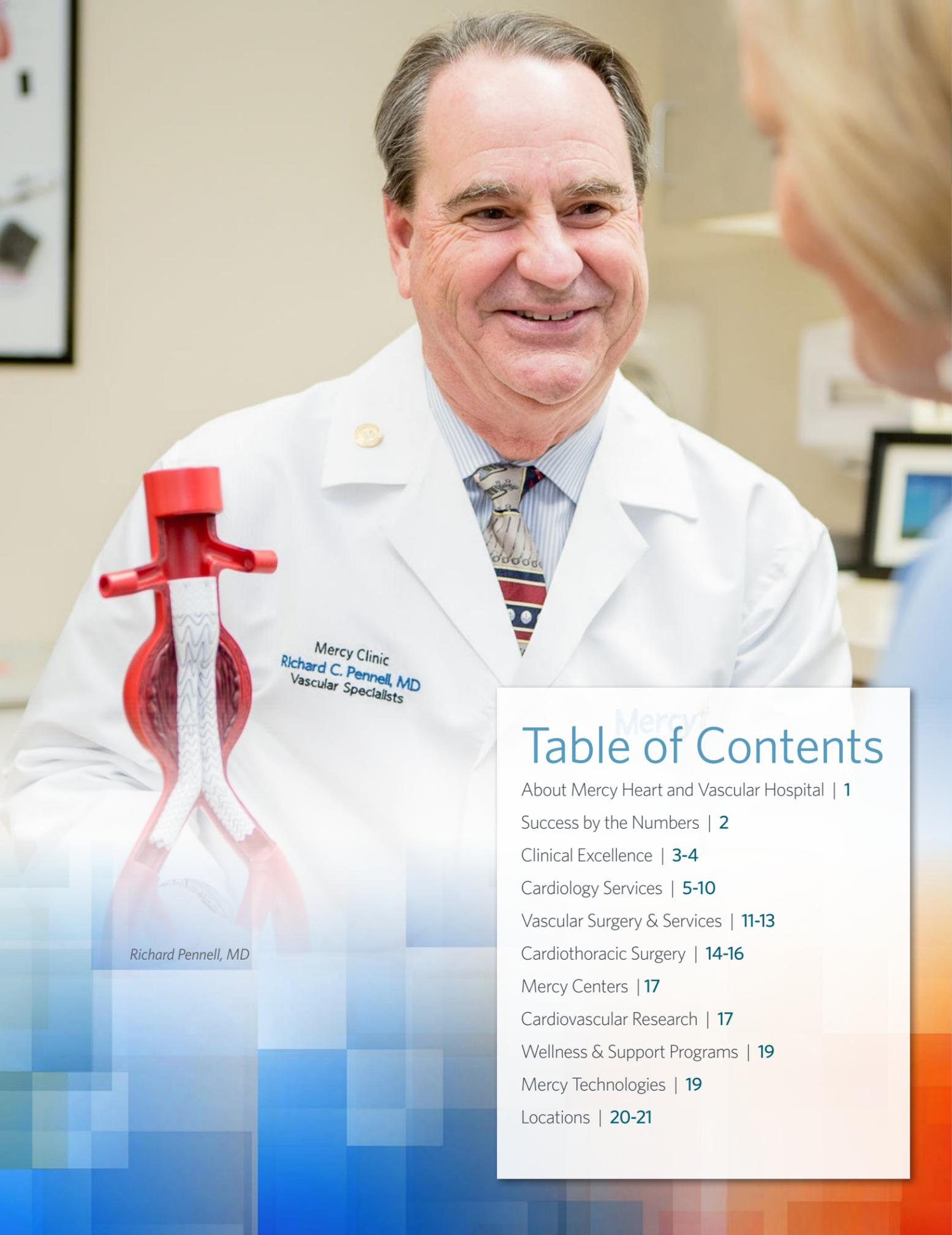
Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital

Expanding the field of heart care.



Your life is our life's work.

mercy.net/stlheart



Richard Pennell, MD

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Facilities and Services:

- Single access phone number **(1-855-MERCY-00)** and 48-hour referral process
- 96 private patient rooms with accommodations for family members
- 9 levels (340,000 square feet)
- 9 diagnostic and procedure laboratories that include:
 - 3 interventional catheterization laboratories
 - 3 electrophysiology laboratories
 - 1 peripheral vascular laboratory
- 5 operating rooms
- On-site physician offices
- Integrated emergency department facilities
- Chest pain center
- Clinical trials
- Nuclear cardiology laboratory accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL), one of the first labs to earn this accreditation in the U.S.
- Specialized, process-focused nursing care
- Cardiology hospitalists on staff
- Noninvasive cardiac testing (inpatient and outpatient)
- Noninvasive vascular and arterial testing (inpatient and outpatient)
- Cardiac rehabilitation gym
- Wellness and prevention programs
- Integrative therapies

Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital

Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital is the first in the region devoted exclusively to the prevention, detection and treatment of heart and vascular diseases. Whether patients need advanced treatment or routine diagnostic care, Mercy's specialists have a passion for healing and helping patients return to their lives.

When patients visit Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital, they'll have a highly experienced team on their side to provide innovative cardiology and vascular services.

Mercy's dedicated team strives for an excellent and highly coordinated patient care experience, providing clear and consistent communication with both patients and referring physicians. Throughout the St. Louis region, physicians refer patients to Mercy with confidence that they'll receive the best, most complete and compassionate care available.



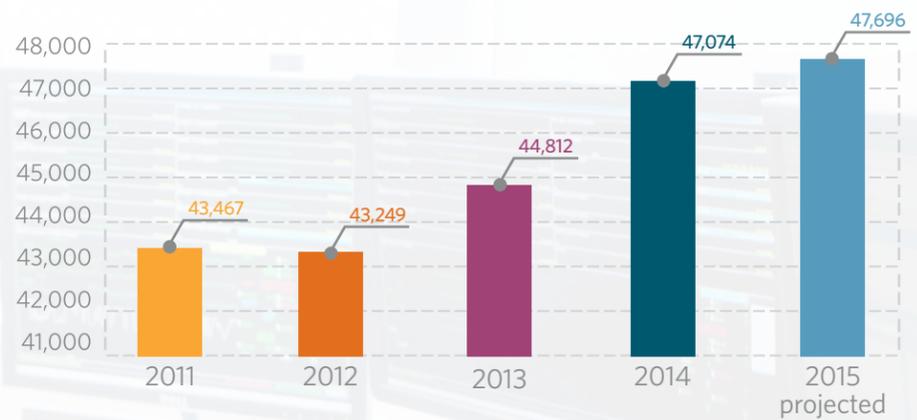
Procedures:

- Diagnostic testing (echo, stress, etc.)
- Cardiac catheterization lab procedures
- Electrophysiology devices such as loop recorders, pacemakers and ICDs
- Electrophysiology ablations
- Vascular surgery and peripheral vascular lab
- Cardiac surgery
- Thoracic surgery
- Non-invasive vascular testing

Success by the Numbers

A look at Mercy's total procedures over a five-year period shows a steady rise in overall volumes.

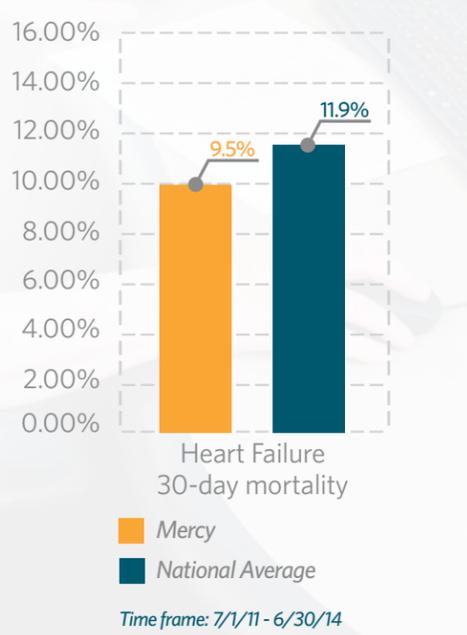
Total Volume - All Procedures*



*Diagnostic testing, cardiac cath lab, EP devices, EP ablations, Vascular/PVL, CT surgery, open heart surgery, non-invasive vascular testing

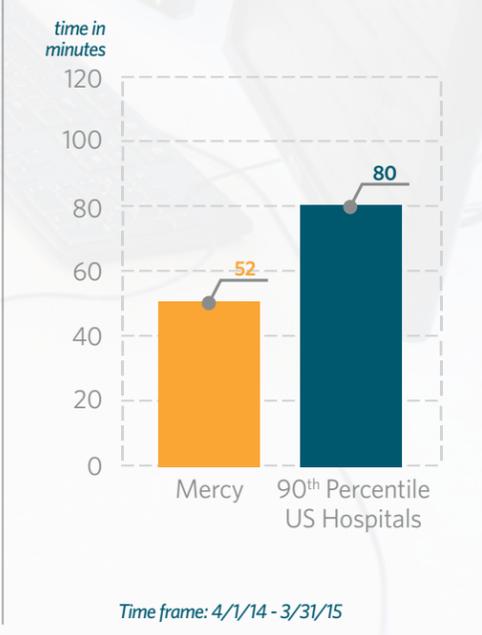
Risk-adjusted 30-day post-hospital mortality is justifiably the single most commonly used measurement for comparative outcomes in cardiac surgery and procedures. Our focus on patient safety and dedication to continuous performance improvement has resulted in mortality rates at or below the national average.

30-day Mortality Rates for Heart Failure



All STEMI (ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction, the medical indication that a heart attack has occurred) patients brought to Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital were treated in less than 90 minutes.

Median Door to Balloon Time for STEMI



Patient Satisfaction

Mercy is committed to providing high-quality service and compassionate care. We accomplish this by listening to the opinions and concerns of our patients. Based on Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Provider Systems (HCAHPS) value-based scores and Professional Research Consultants (PRC) surveys of patients for measures such as overall quality of care, teamwork, courtesy, compassion and safety, Mercy Clinic Heart and Vascular locations consistently rank in the 90th percentile for outpatient satisfaction. Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital also exceeds benchmarks for patient satisfaction.



Clinical Excellence

Time to treatment is critical in the early stages of heart attack and heart failure. At Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital, our goal is to significantly reduce this time in order to achieve the best clinical outcomes.

Our **Code STEMI** automatically sets in motion a chain of actions including treatment team communication, emergency department preparation, and cardiac team assembly.

It begins when electrocardiogram (ECG) results are transmitted via radio from ambulances and mediac helicopters to the Mercy Hospital Emergency Department. Once a diagnosis of Code STEMI is made, the ED staff notifies the Rapid Access Service Team who alerts the catheterization team, which includes an interventional cardiologist. The team immediately moves to expedite the

transfer of the patient to the cardiac cath lab for heart-saving interventions such as emergency percutaneous coronary interventions. Research has shown that patients suffering heart attacks who receive care within 90 minutes experience better outcomes than those who do not. According to Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield reporting, Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital is in the top 10 percent of large hospitals in

the state of Missouri that meet core measures on door-to-balloon time (90 minutes or less). This measure has been consistently met since July 2006, when Code STEMI was first implemented.

Mercy Exceeds the Norm for Best Practices for Heart Attack, Heart Failure Treatment

In care for heart attack and heart failure patients, Mercy meets or exceeds the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) national core measures for the following best practices:

• Acute Coronary Syndrome

- ACEI (angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor) or ARB (angiotensin receptor blocker) prescribed at discharge for LVSD
- Beta blocker at discharge
- Aspirin at arrival and discharge
- PCI (percutaneous coronary interventions) within 90 minutes of arrival
- Smoking cessation counseling

• Heart Failure

- Assessment of left ventricular function (LVF)
- ACE inhibitor or ARB
- Discharge instructions for heart failure patients

Accreditations

- Adult and pediatric non-invasive cardiac testing accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL)
- Noninvasive vascular testing accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL)
- Nuclear Cardiology Laboratory accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL)
- Accredited Heart Failure Center by the Society of Chest Pain Centers
- Certified as a Level I Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission



Quality Recognitions

- Integrated with a Level I Trauma Center. On the ground floor of the hospital is the Mercy Hospital Emergency Department, part of the only Level I Trauma Center in St. Louis County. Patients have the best access possible to strong integration of cardiology and emergency services. The Mercy ED handles a major share of the county's trauma cases and provides medical direction for six fire and ambulance districts, four emergency medical response agencies and the Arch Air Medical Service, the leading critical care air transport service covering the bi-state area.
- A top rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for the Mercy Cardiothoracic Surgery program and coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). This three-star quality rating is based on heart surgery outcomes. It indicates the Mercy CABG program ranked above the 90th percentile compared to all other programs nationwide, and places Mercy's Cardiothoracic Surgery program in the top 10 percent.
- American Heart Association 2015 Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Award for quality care of STEMI patients.
- Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care® from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. This designation signifies that Mercy meets nationally established quality-focused criteria that emphasize patient safety and outcomes.

Rapid Access Service

Mercy's Rapid Access Service program was created in 2005. It works to quickly connect patients with heart and vascular needs in surrounding community hospitals and their physician offices to the highly trained specialists and latest technology at Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital. The service is staffed 24/7. One phone call to the Rapid Access Service team, and the patient transfer or admission process begins. Your patient's care is seamlessly coordinated from that point forward. The Rapid Access Service team may be contacted for any direct admissions or critical transfers to Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital.



John Brunts, MD

Cardiology Services

Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital offers complete, leading-edge cardiology services, from noninvasive cardiac testing to interventions, treatments and procedures. Our experienced staff provides exceptional care for patients with coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, heart failure and many other cardiac conditions.

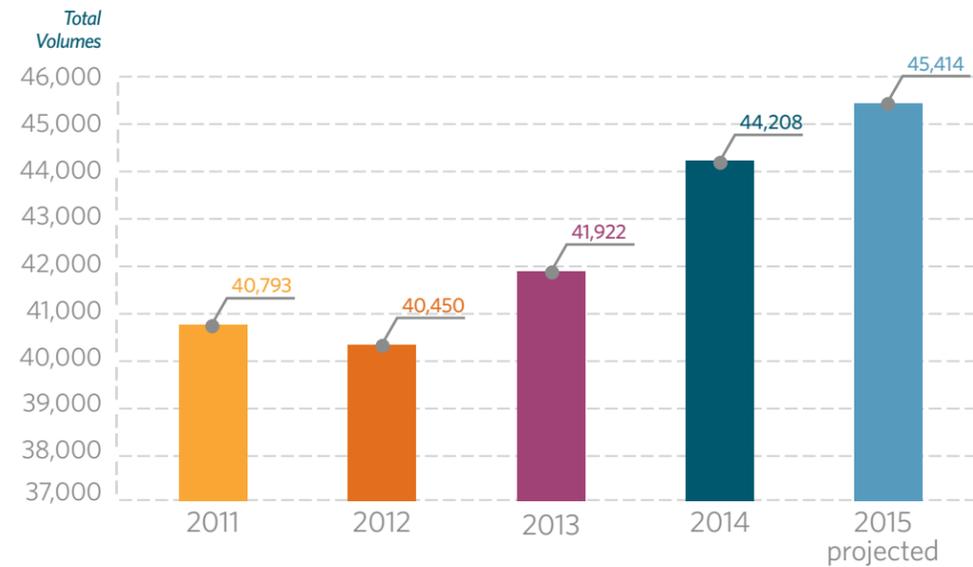
Our Team of General Cardiologists

Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital has a team of more than 30 cardiologists on staff, with multiple area office locations for patient convenience.



Jeff Ciaramita, MD

Cardiology Procedures Volumes



Noninvasive Cardiac Testing

The best care for patients starts with the best in cardiac testing and diagnostic procedures. For patient convenience, many testing services are offered in multiple locations including the sixth floor of Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital and at outpatient locations in North, South and West St. Louis counties, and St. Charles County. [\(See a complete listing on pages 20-21\).](#)

Diagnostic Procedures:

- Myocardial perfusion imaging (exercise and pharmacologic)
- Cardiac event and Holter monitoring.
- Echocardiogram
 - Exercise stress
 - Pharmacologic exercise stress
 - Transesophageal
- Exercise stress electrocardiogram
- Cardioversion transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE)
- Cardiac catheterization

- Coronary angiography
- Cardiac nuclear medicine
- Cardiac MRI
- Cardiac CT angiography
- Coronary calcium scoring

Management of Heart Failure

Mercy uses a team approach in the treatment of patients with heart failure. We work with primary care physicians and cardiologists to improve quality of life and reduce inpatient stays through a variety of treatment programs.

Inpatient care may include:

- Streamlined treatment pathways for rapid discharge
- Biventricular pacemaker placement
- Surgical interventions
- Medication adjustment

1-855-MERCY-00

Diagnostic tests are conveniently scheduled through our designated scheduling phone number.

Cardiology Hospitalist Program

Patients at Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital deserve the most coordinated and personal care possible. To that end, we established the first cardiology hospitalist program in the St. Louis area. It provides focused care for hospitalized heart patients throughout the day, provided by board-certified cardiologists.

Patients are supported by **M. Carolyn Gamache, MD, FACC.** Nurse practitioners also work with the doctors to provide care and additional information to patients and families.

The cardiology hospitalist program provides many benefits for patients, families and their primary care physicians:

- A constant presence for more consistent care
- More time to meet with the patient and family, to answer questions and explain conditions and medications
- Reduction in the number of subsequent admissions
- Decrease in unnecessary testing
- Expedited prescribed therapy



M. Carolyn Gamache, MD, FACC

Electrophysiology Services

Heart rhythm disorders are diagnosed and treated by Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital's skilled team of electrophysiologists. Mercy specialists use the latest in advanced technologies to bring life-changing outcomes for patients who suffer from heart rhythm conditions.

Mercy electrophysiology services provide assistance with arrhythmias with device implantation and performing ablations for SVTs and complex ablations with atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia. Our electrophysiologists are leaders in the region performing over 500 total ablations annually.

In addition to ablations, our physicians are experts with respect to device implantation (ILR, PM, ICD, Bi V ICD's) and management. They are heavily involved in innovative research trials and protocols including nanostim pacemakers (Leadless II) and left atrial occluder and exclusion devices (WATCHMAN device

and Lariat device) which are alternatives to Coumadin for CVA prevention for appropriate candidates.



Amit Doshi, MD

WATCHMAN™ Device for Stroke Prevention

After years as a leading enrollment site for the clinical trials, doctors at Mercy Hospital St. Louis are the first in St. Louis to offer all appropriate atrial fibrillation patients an alternative to warfarin therapy for stroke prevention with the newly FDA-approved WATCHMAN Left Atrial Appendage Closure Device.

The WATCHMAN Device is designed to keep harmful blood clots from entering the patient's blood stream, causing a stroke. Patients with atrial fibrillation, the most common heart-rhythm disorder affecting more than 5 million people worldwide, are at an increased risk of stroke because blood can pool in the left atrium appendage (LAA) ultimately forming clots.

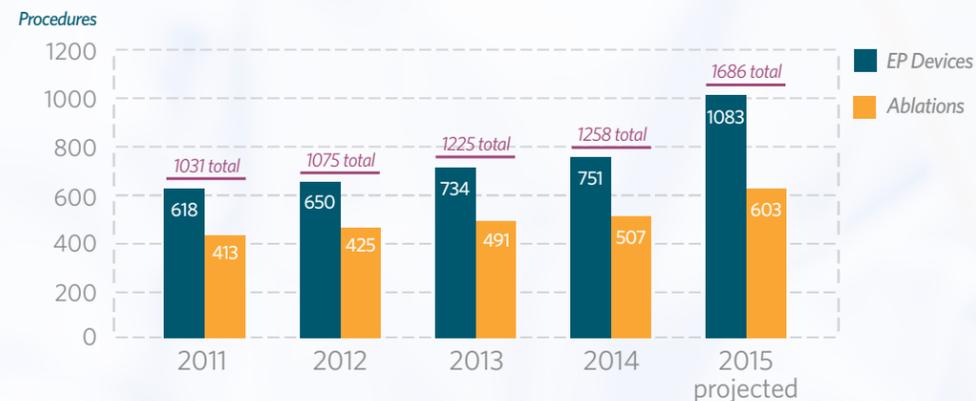
Typically patients with A-Fib take blood thinning medications, such as warfarin, for life to prevent clots from forming in the heart. These medications require frequent monitoring and have diet and other drug interactions causing compliance issues. In trials, the WATCHMAN Device was shown to decrease strokes at least as effectively as blood thinners.

The procedure to implant the WATCHMAN Device into the heart is done via a flexible tube (catheter) through a vein in the groin. It's designed to prevent blood flow into the left atrial appendage reducing the risk of stroke and eliminating the need for long term use of blood thinning medications.

Mercy's comprehensive electrophysiology services include:

- **Ablations**
 - Supraventricular tachycardia (SVT)
 - Atrial flutter (A-flutter)
 - Atrial fibrillation (A-Fib)
 - Atrial tachycardia (A-Tach)
 - Premature ventricular contraction (PVC)
 - Ventricular tachycardia (VT)
 - Atrioventricular node (AV Node)
- **Chronic Rhythm Management**
 - Pacemaker/ICD implantation
 - Pacemaker/ICD clinic patients
 - Remote monitoring for pacemakers/ICD
 - MRI compatible pacemaker
- **CRM Lead Extractions**
- **Left atrial occlusion /exclusion devices**
 - WATCHMAN device
 - Lariat device

Electrophysiology Procedures Volumes



Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine

Mercy is a leader in the greater St. Louis region in cardiac diagnosis and treatment, so physicians know they are putting their patients' hearts in the best hands. Our state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization lab performs over 3,300 procedures annually, with interventional cardiologists treating patients as part of a highly coordinated team including EMS, emergency medicine physicians and nurses. We routinely treat acute myocardial infarctions under the recommended 90-minute time frame, with team availability 24/7. Our services are strongly integrated with our emergency department – a Level I Trauma Center located on the ground floor of the Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital.

Mercy's interventional programs and procedures include:

Cardiac Catheterization Lab:

- Served by interventional cardiologists experienced in:
 - Management of acute coronary syndromes
 - Peripheral arterial disease involving the legs
 - Vascular disease related to the renal and carotid arteries
- Includes research members studying new catheterization technologies and techniques through clinical trials and device evaluations.
- Provides intravascular ultrasound and physiologic assessment of intermediate stenoses when needed to determine appropriateness of intervention.
- The regional leader in transradial cardiac catheterization.

Structural Heart Services:

- Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR): a non-surgical approach to replacing an aortic valve in patients who are high-risk or non-surgical candidates.
- Non-surgical ASD/PFO closure

We offer hemodynamic support with IABP (Intra-aortic balloon pump) or percutaneous left ventricular assist device (LVAD) for complex interventions, or for patients in cardiogenic shock with poor left ventricular function. We continually partner with the cardiothoracic surgeons to develop non-surgical treatment of valvular heart disease, including balloon valvuloplasty and percutaneous valve replacement.

Diagnostic Procedures:

- Coronary angiography
- Peripheral angiography
- Right heart catheterization
- Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS)
- Fractional flow reserve (FFR)

Interventional Procedures:

- Acute STEMI care
- Percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI)
- PFO closure
- ASD closure
- Peripheral angioplasty and stenting
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)
- Chronic total occlusion percutaneous intervention (CTO)

CardioMEMS™ HF System

Mercy Hospital is one of the first in the region to offer CardioMEMS, an FDA-approved heart failure (HF) monitor proven to significantly reduce HF hospital admissions and improve quality of life in NYHA III patients.

It is a small wireless sensor (less than the size of a dime) implanted via a minimally invasive procedure in the cardiac catheterization lab. The sensor allows patients to be monitored at home wirelessly to provide real time measurements of pulmonary pressures, CO and heart rate, which allows earlier diagnosis of HF decompensation. Appropriate medical therapy can be started earlier in the process, which results in a significant 37 percent reduction in HF hospitalizations in clinical trials.



Tim Schloss, MD and Robert Ferrara, MD

Cath Lab Procedures Volume (Including PCIs)

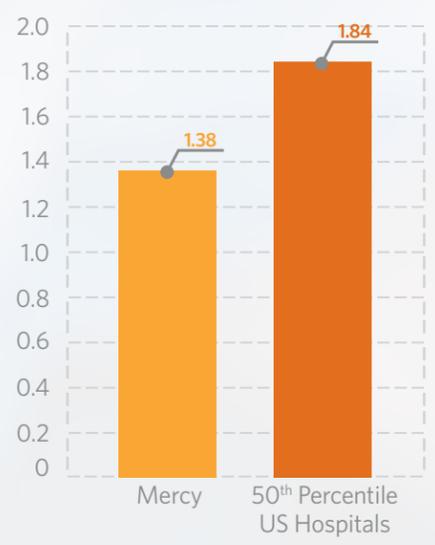


All STEMI patients brought to Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital were treated in less than 90 minutes.

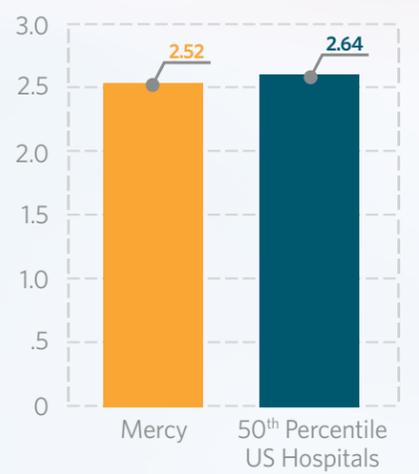
Vascular Surgery

The latest technologies and techniques, many of which have been developed over the past five or six years, are available as treatment options at Mercy. We have participated in many major, national studies, and we're one of just a few select institutions offering advanced technologic innovations for complex vascular problems.

Risk-adjusted Mortality - PCI Patients (2014)



Proportion of PCI Patients with Death, Emergency CABG, Stroke or Repeat Target Vessel Revascularization



Vito Mantese, MD

Mercy is a recognized leader in vascular medicine. Our broad expertise includes:

Stroke Prevention

- **Carotid endarterectomy** - Participant in the landmark NIH ACAS trial demonstrating the effectiveness of carotid endarterectomy.
- **Carotid stents** - Major contributor in NIH CREST trial comparing carotid stents and endarterectomy.
- **CREST 2** - Actively enrolling patients in study comparing carotid intervention vs. intensive medical management alone.

Abdominal and Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms and Dissections

- Conventional and minimally invasive stent procedures.
- Minimally invasive treatment of complex aneurysms with branched aortic stent grafts.

Limb-Saving Procedures

Conventional and catheter-based procedures for the treatment of acute and chronic arterial disease of the extremities.

- Angioplasty
- Stents
- Laser
- Atherectomy
- Surgical bypass for limb salvage and advanced disease

Venous Disease

- **Varicose veins**
 - Endovenous laser treatment of varicose veins (EVLT)
 - Microphlebectomy
 - Sclerotherapy
- **Deep venous thrombosis** - treatment of acute and chronic thrombosis to prevent chronic leg problems

Lymphedema

- Advanced diagnostic and treatment experience to prevent disabling symptoms

Hemodialysis

- Conventional and catheter-based interventions for establishing and maintaining hemodialysis access
- Placement of peritoneal access
- Development of regional center for patients with complex vascular access problems.

Noninvasive Vascular Laboratory

Our lab offers a full range of noninvasive tests to diagnose almost all known or suspected vascular disorders. Testing can often determine the severity of problems and the need for treatment.

Specialized Teams Make the Difference in Acute Aortic Emergencies

Acute aortic emergencies are among the most time-sensitive medical problems threatening patients today. These include ruptured abdominal and thoracic aortic aneurysms, aortic dissection, and traumatic aortic transections following motor vehicle accidents.

Our team of board-certified vascular and cardiovascular surgeons has extensive experience treating acute and chronic aortic problems. They are involved in a number of research projects to provide the latest and most advanced technologies to these patients. There is also a dedicated team of nursing and support personnel on call 24/7.

If you have an emergency, or wish to initiate a patient transfer to Mercy, call the 24-hour Rapid Access Line at 1-877-947-8377.

Mercy is a national leader in the education of vascular technologists with a national symposium held in St. Louis every other year. The symposium features prominent technologists and physicians addressing new and controversial issues in noninvasive testing. This provides training for RVT and RPVI certification.



Richard Pennell, MD and Scott Westfall, MD

Perioperative Stroke Rates:

Carotid

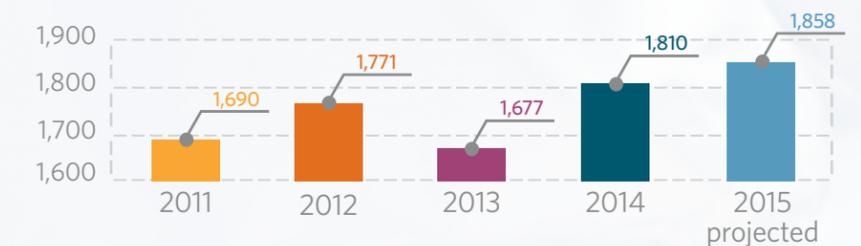
Endarterectomy

0.73 percent stroke rate over a five-year period (2011 - 2015; 3 out of 409 cases)

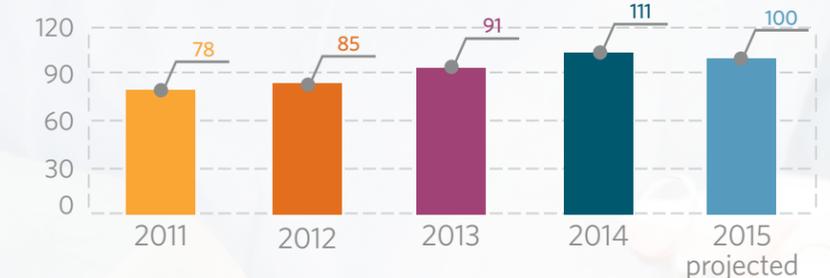
Carotid Stents

1.1 percent stroke rate over a five-year period (2010 - 2014; 2 out of 168 cases)

Vascular Surgery Procedures Volumes



Carotid Endarterectomy Volumes





Mercy Clinic
Mark L. Blucher, MD
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital cardiothoracic surgeons are among the most experienced in the region. Their knowledge and patient-centered approach provide patients with the best treatment options for the entire spectrum of cardiothoracic disease, including disorders of the heart, lungs, esophagus and aorta.

Mercy's Cardiovascular/Thoracic surgeons have a wealth of experience. They offer patients life-saving procedures, including:

- Coronary artery bypass grafting; on and off-pump endoscopic vein and radial harvesting
- Aortic valve replacement (tissue or mechanical)
- Mitral valve repair and replacement, tricuspid valve repair
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)
- Valve-sparing aortic root replacement, aneurysm repair and aortic dissection repair
- MAZE procedure for atrial fibrillation
- Repair of congenital heart defects in adults
- Esophagectomy for disorders including cancer
- Diagnosis of lung nodules and diffuse lung disease
- Diagnosis and staging of lung cancer treatment
- Biopsy and resection for abnormalities of the mediastinum
- Bleb resection, pleurodesis for pneumothorax
- Tunneled catheter placement for pleural effusion (chronic and malignant)
- Robotic thoracic surgery (thymectomy, lung resection)
- Thymectomy
- Sympathectomy



Jeanne Cleveland, MD

Minimally invasive surgery for cardiac, thoracic and valvular diseases

Many procedures can now be performed with two or three inch incisions, which studies have shown lead to shorter hospital stays, faster recovery times and improved outcomes for patients.

Mercy Centers Provide Specialized, Patient-Focused Care

Center for Heart Valve Disease

This Center offers sophisticated testing and expert treatment for a variety of valve problems, from complex mitral valve repairs and determining TAVR eligibility, to aortic valve surgery and treatment for aneurysm, as well as medication management.

Mercy Lipid Center

Our Lipid Center serves patients requiring specialty care for disorders related to abnormal cholesterol (also called lipids). A board-certified cardiologist, a nurse practitioner specially trained in clinical lipidology, and when indicated, the services of a registered dietitian all work together to improve heart health through cholesterol management.

Other services available include:

- Advanced lipid testing to help identify risk factors undiscovered in previous testing, uncover long-standing risks for disease and help determine whether current therapy is working.
- LDL aphaeresis, a procedure that dramatically reduces LDL cholesterol levels in patients with high risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) along with very high LDL-c cholesterol that isn't sufficiently reduced by a heart healthy lifestyle and medications.

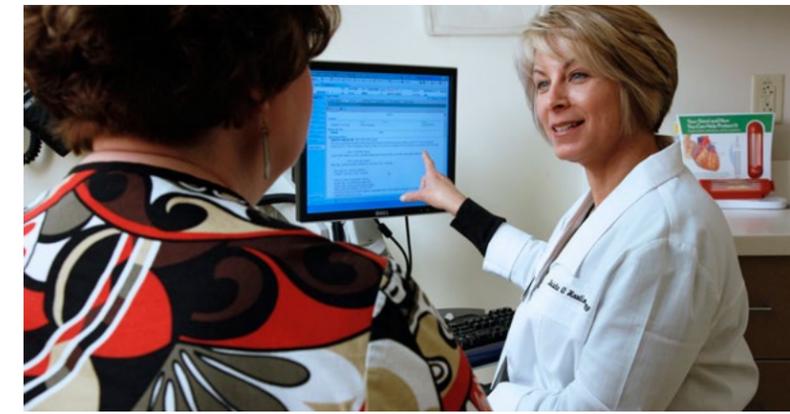
Aortic Center

The Mercy Aortic Center treats emergencies such as:

- Acute ascending aortic dissection
- Acute descending thoracic aortic aneurysm
- Acute limb ischemia

The Aortic Center utilizes our 24-hour Rapid Access Line, **1-877-947-8377**, for vascular emergencies. It is staffed by experienced nurses who:

- Facilitate physician-to-physician communication to accept patients
- Alert the hospital treatment team
- Ensure bed placement
- Coordinate direct admission



Mercy Arrhythmia Center

Electrophysiologists (EPs) with the Mercy Arrhythmia Center in St. Louis help provide positive outcomes for patients who suffer from heart rhythm conditions, such as:

- Atrial fibrillation or A-Fib (upper heart chambers beat out of rhythm)
- Ventricular fibrillation (lower heart chambers beat out of rhythm)
- Tachycardias (rapid heartbeat)
- Bradycardias (slow heartbeat)

Our expert EPs specialize in clinical management of arrhythmia. Through medication monitoring, ablation and device implantation, management and extraction, they provide outstanding care and improve quality of life for patients with irregular heartbeats.

Mercy Stroke Center

The Mercy Stroke Center provides experienced specialists who are ready to assist with stroke and many other neurological disorders. Mercy Hospital St. Louis is certified as a Level I Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission, which accredits and certifies hospitals in the U.S. Our team works diligently to provide the best stroke care and to make a remarkable difference in the outcome for patients.

Mercy Heart Failure/Advanced Heart Failure Institute

The Mercy Heart Failure/Advanced Heart Failure Institute, led by a board-certified advanced heart failure cardiologist, offers both inpatient and outpatient heart failure (HF) services to help patients manage HF for better quality of life.

Services include managing complex HF to reduce rehospitalization, identifying patients who would benefit from advanced HF therapies (CardioMEMS, LVAD, heart transplant, etc.) and HF Coordination of Care Work Group for patients with recurrent HF hospitalizations. The institute also connects HF patients with device and research trials at Mercy Hospital related to HF and device management.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Procedure Volumes



Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) Quality Measures

The likelihood of experiencing any complication is 7% less than the national rate.

	Mercy Cardiothoracic Surgery Program			Comparison group
	2012	2013	2014	
Any reoperation	2%	3.3%	1.5%	3.3%
Any infection	0.5%	0%	1.5%	1.8%
Total ventilation hours	21.3	15.5	8.8	17.2
Intubation greater than 24 hours	10.5%	5%	2.9%	7.5%
Total length of stay (days)	8.5	7.4	6.7	8.9
Readmitted within 30 days	11.2%	14.4%	10.6%	9.5%

Source: STS

Cardiovascular Research

Mercy's cardiovascular research department features dedicated personnel who coordinate and administer more than 20 investigator-initiated, NIH and industry-sponsored studies lead by our physicians.

The independently-funded studies investigate ways of advancing treatments and greatly improving patients' lives. Our areas of research currently include hypertension, heart disease, atrial fibrillation, structural heart disease, heart failure, high cholesterol, and pacemakers and chronic rhythm management.

Members of Mercy Cardiovascular Research have received certification in Clinical Research Coordination. Cardiovascular clinic trials currently underway include:

- **Leadless II — Nanostim™ Pacemaker**

A small implantable pacemaker device that sends electrical pulses to the heart whenever it senses that the heartbeat is too slow. The leadless pacemaker is placed directly in the heart without the need for a surgical pocket and insulated wires (called leads).

- **Parachute IV — Cardiac Device to Treat Heart Failure**

The Parachute Ventricular Partitioning device is a minimally invasive treatment for patients with heart failure caused by damage to the heart muscle following a heart attack.

- **ODYSSEY Outcomes — Cholesterol Trial for Patients with Heart Disease**

A study to evaluate the ability of an investigational drug called Alirocumab to lower LDL cholesterol and prevent future heart attacks or strokes in people with coronary heart disease who have been recently hospitalized for a heart attack or unstable angina.

- **TURBULENCE — CADence Device to Detect Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)**

A study to evaluate the performance of the CADence device in detecting the existence of clinically significant coronary artery disease. The device is an alternative screening tool to nuclear stress testing for detecting coronary artery blockages.

- **EMANATE — Apixaban vs. Coumadin for Cardioversion**

A phase IV trial to assess the effectiveness of apixaban compared with warfarin in subjects with atrial fibrillation undergoing cardioversion.

- **CREST II — To Determine the Best Treatment for Stroke Prevention**

A study to compare intensive medical management in combination with carotid endarterectomy or stent to intensive medical management alone. Subjects with an asymptomatic stenosis of 70 percent or greater are eligible to be enrolled.

- **AnGes Trial — Limb Salvage Study**

Offers patients with no surgical alternatives for limb salvage a new medical treatment that may save limbs. A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study to evaluate a new injectable medication for patients who have no viable surgical options for correction of critical limb ischemia and who would otherwise face amputation.

For more information on current studies and recruitment of patients, please call 314-251-3920 or email: nicole.elmore@mercy.net.

Wellness and Support Programs

Whether patients need support as they work to control heart or vascular disease, or simply want to reduce their risk for developing it, Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital offers programs to help:

- **Cardiac rehab**
- **Pulmonary rehab**
- **Vascular rehab**
- **CPR training:** Mercy is an American Heart Association Training Center
- **Dietary counseling and nutrition service**
- **Fitness First**, designed for patients at risk for developing heart disease
- **Smoking cessation programs**
- **Support groups**, including heart failure and pulmonary rehabilitation groups

Extending our care beyond the hospital stay

Mercy is working to provide additional care and support for patients and their families during an illness and beyond. All of our patients, including heart and vascular patients, benefit from these services. And, Mercy has been recognized as a national leader in the implementation of an electronic health record. Ours links all members of the care team together wherever a patient is within Mercy, including:

- Mercy Heart and Vascular Hospital
- Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital
- Mercy Home Health
- Mercy Hospice
- Mercy Home Infusion
- Palliative Care

Mercy Technologies

Mercy Technologies offer virtual care and 24-hour access to information for both patients and physicians.

MyMercy Lets Patients Connect with Physicians Electronically

MyMercy is an online service which allows patients to connect with their care providers and manage their health online, anytime. It's free and easy to use. It's private and secure. And it's accessible 24 hours a day from a computer, tablet or internet-enabled phone.

Patients can send secure messages to their physician via MyMercy, request appointment times, view lab or test results, and find information about their medications.

Mercy Telemedicine Services Offer Virtual Visits Close to Home

However great the distance, telemedicine brings patients and providers together with services that go well beyond a simple video chat. Online-enabled instruments such as Bluetooth® stethoscope equipment allow physicians to perform a wide range of medical exams, view electronically transmitted test results and read medical records, all in real time.

Patients receive close-to-home care and avoid the hassle and expense of traveling to another location. Telemedicine visits with Mercy Clinic Heart and Vascular physicians are currently available at our Rolla location, with plans to expand to other locations. New patients are seen through the standard referral process.

