

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

New Technology Provides Treatment For Blocked Arteries

(SALEM, OHIO) – February 10, 2021 – Innovative technology to open blocked arteries is now being utilized by Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon Lawrence Schmetterer, M.D., FACS, at Salem Regional Medical Center (SRMC). Known as the Rotarex[®]S, this special device aids in treating blockages of the leg arteries and is especially beneficial for patients suffering from advanced peripheral artery disease (PAD) in the lower limbs.

What is PAD?

According to Dr. Schmetterer, who performs the procedure at SRMC, “PAD occurs when a buildup of plaque in the arteries prevents a person’s limbs from receiving enough blood flow to keep up with their body’s demand. Early on, this disease may cause difficulty walking beyond certain distances; but in its most severe forms, it can cause foot ulcers, infections or even gangrene. People with PAD are three times more likely to die of heart attacks or strokes than those without this condition.”



**Lawrence Schmetterer, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Thoracic & Vascular Surgery**

Lifesaving Technology

Advanced endovascular techniques can re-open blocked arteries to the legs and make a dramatic difference for patients by eliminating pain and preserving limbs that may otherwise require amputation.

“The Rotarex[®]S is a minimally-invasive procedure that allows the vascular surgeon to restore blood flow through plaque-blocked vessels as small as a few millimeters,” Dr. Schmetterer explained. “Patients who were previously not candidates for surgery, including those with chronic leg pain, bad vessels, poor circulation, or heart and lung conditions, may be able to undergo the Rotarex[®]S procedure and find relief from their symptoms.”

How It Works

“The head of the Rotarex[®]S catheter, which is a bit larger than the tip of a match and beveled on each side, is inserted into the artery by the vascular surgeon through a small puncture and guided to the blockage using advanced x-ray monitoring. At the push of a button, the catheter begins to rotate and suction. The rotating head dislodges and shatters the blocking material to clear the artery. The debris is then collected and removed out of the body through the catheter.”

Patient Benefits

“This procedure can usually be completed on an outpatient basis without an incision or general anesthesia. Patients experience only a needle stick, as opposed to undergoing conventional surgery, which can require two large incisions, surgical grafting and a hospital stay.”

More Information

To learn more about the Rotarex[®]S catheter, or other procedures involved in the treatment of circulatory disorders, please contact Dr. Schmetterer’s office at 790 Boardman-Canfield Road, Suite 3, in Boardman, 330-743-3604. Dr. Schmetterer also provides a weekly cardiovascular clinic at SRMC.

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