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CARDIOVASCULAR
Research & Education

CaRE Today

2011 #2

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Wausau
Heart & Lung
Surgeons

CaRE Foundation is Partnering with AtriCure® for ABLATE AF Registry

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common sustained tachyarrhythmia seen in clinical practice (1). There are currently 2.2 to 5.1 million people estimated in the U.S. to suffer from the condition (2,3). Numerous treatment therapies exist including rate and/or rhythm control along with potential curative procedures.

One surgical treatment of AF is an open “Maze procedure” whereby several “cut and sew” incisions are made to the cardiac tissue thought to interrupt the circuits through which the atrial fibrillation occurs. The ABLATE AF Registry is an FDA-approved trial collecting data on the use of the AtriCure Bipolar System. This system uses radiofrequency ablation as a less invasive system to create many of the lesions previously accomplished using the “cut and sew” Maze technique.

The Ablate AF Registry is enrolling patients with history of a non-paroxysmal form of AF including: longstanding persistent AF (continuous AF of greater than one-year duration), or persistent AF (as defined by the Heart Rhythm Society task force on catheter and surgical ablation guidelines). Qualifying patients are scheduled to undergo elective

cardiac surgical procedure(s) including coronary artery bypass grafting and/or valve replacement or repair.

CaRE Foundation is currently enrolling patients. For more information about ABLATE AF or to refer a patient, please contact Emmalee Nichols at 715.847.CARE or 715.847.2273.

1. Peters NS et al., Atrial Fibrillation: strategies to control, combat and cure. *Lancet*; 2002;359:593-603
2. American Heart Association. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2006 Update. *Circulation*. 2006; 113:e85-e151
3. Secular Trends in Incidence of Atrial Fibrillation in Olmsted County, Minnesota, 1980 to 2000, and Implications on the Projections for Future Prevalence, Yoko Miyasaka, Marion E. Barnes, Bernard J. Gersh, Stephen S. Cha, Kent R. Bailey, Walter P. Abhayaratna, James B. Seward and Teresa S.M. Tsang. *Circulation* 2006; 114; 119-125.

CaRE study to be published

David Murdock, M.D., recently attended the annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology where he presented the findings of a primary research study involving the CaRE Foundation and 393 Aspirus patients. Dr. Murdock and colleagues compared the effectiveness of the medications ranolazine and amiodarone in preventing atrial fibrillation from occurring in patients who underwent coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery. The study, which took place from June 2008 through April 2010, found ranolazine to be a more effective medication, as 26.5% of patients treated with amiodarone experienced atrial fibrillation after surgery, compared to 17.5% of those who received ranolazine. A manuscript of Dr. Murdock's findings will be published in the American Journal of Cardiology in September. Click here for more details about the study's findings.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PrimaryCare/PreventiveCare/25761>



Welcome Anna Drewry

Anna Drewry is one of two college students participating as a CaRE Foundation summer intern. This fall she will be a senior at UW-Madison and will graduate in May 2012. She is majoring in Biology and is currently in the process of applying to medical school.

Anna grew up in the Wausau area and graduated from Wausau East in 2008. During the school year she works as a research assistant in Dr. Gomez's neuroscience laboratory studying axon guidance cues in developing embryos. In her free time she likes to read, bake and spend time with friends. One of Anna's favorite things about her internship thus far has been the opportunity to interact with patients on a regular basis.



CaRE Journal Club, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Aspirus Cardiovascular Associates Breakroom:

- Tuesday, July 26, 2011 Topic tbd
- Tuesday, August 23, 2011 *Partners –HF Diagnostic Protocol for Risk Stratification*, David J. Whellan, MD MHS FACC FAHA

What's New at CaRE ?

With the help of Aspirus Business Development the CaRE Foundation web site is undergoing a face lift for easier navigation and posting of timely updates—stay tuned.

Save-the-Date:

22nd Annual CaRE Foundation Winter Conference is slated for Friday, February 10, 2012 at the Westwood Conference Center, Wausau.

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