



July 2012

Complex Heart Valve Service

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Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to announce the launch of transcatheter (percutaneous) aortic valve replacement (TAVR) program at OHSU. From the first peripheral angioplasty in the world by Dr. Charles Dotter to the first artificial heart valve by Dr. Albert Starr (the Starr-Edwards valve), OHSU has been a pioneer in the treatment of cardiovascular disease. Our multidisciplinary heart team cares for a large volume of complex and high risk patients. We routinely achieve outstanding surgical outcomes with traditional aortic valve replacement including no deaths in the last 100 patients undergoing isolated aortic valve replacement.

Currently, a significant percentage of patients with aortic valvular stenosis are ineligible for conventional aortic valve replacement surgery. This is due to a variety of reasons such as patient co-morbidities, frailty, and technical issues associated with cardiac surgery. TAVR provides an effective treatment for this group of patients and represents a significant treatment advance.

We believe that coordination of care is one of the most important components for a successful advanced therapeutic program. Modeled on our experience in managing complex patient populations (cardiac transplant and ventricular assist device patients, patients undergoing complex catheter based procedures), we envision a partnership between the patient's providers and OHSU.

We look forward to partnering with you and are happy to discuss patients who might be appropriate for this procedure. Please feel free to contact either one of us directly via email or through the OHSU Physician Consult and Referral Service at **800-245-6478**.

Sincerely,

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