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HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital expands access of care by offering treatment for mitral valve regurgitation in the heart

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (May 5, 2023) – HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital performed Charlotte County’s first MitraClip procedure last week to treat patients with mitral valve regurgitation in the heart.

Mitral valve regurgitation or commonly known as MR, is a condition where the mitral valve doesn’t close effectively, allowing fluid and blood to flow back into the chamber and into the lungs. The condition causes shortness of breath, fatigue and stress to the heart, which can lead to heart failure.

“Patients with mitral valve regurgitation may have had an infection of their valve, were born with a leaky valve or developed a weak valve over time,” said Dr. Alessandro Golino, cardiothoracic surgeon at HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital. “Mitraclip uses a minimally invasive catheter-based approach and is often performed on patients who are not candidates for open heart surgery.”

A multidisciplinary team of physicians including an interventional cardiologist, cardiothoracic surgeon and skilled team of caregivers perform the procedure. The team deploys the device to the diseased part of the valve, synching the leaflets of the valve together to decrease or eliminate the leak.

“The MitraClip technology is an excellent addition of services to our growing cardiovascular program,” said Michael Ehrat, chief executive officer at HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital. “We want to ensure our communities have full access to health care services and we’re proud to be the first in Charlotte County to offer this life-saving procedure.”

Photo Left to Right: Dr. Aneley Hundae, cardiologist, Dr. Eugene Parent, cardiologist, Dr. Alessandro Golino, cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Gino Sedillo, interventional cardiologist

About HCA Florida Healthcare

HCA Florida Healthcare, a part of HCA Healthcare, is a family of more than 570 affiliated sites of care, including hospitals, physician practices and freestanding emergency rooms. United as a statewide network in 2021, HCA Florida Healthcare includes approximately 11,000 experienced doctors and 77,000 colleagues working together to deliver advanced, collaborative care to more than 7.4 million patients each year. HCA Florida Healthcare is committed to improving more lives in more ways and giving back to the communities it serves. The network provided nearly \$836.6 million in uncompensated care and invested significantly in innovative technologies and facilities across Florida, including the new \$360 million state-of-the-art, multi-specialty HCA Florida University Hospital in Davie, Fla. A strong advocate for the next generation of healthcare professionals, HCA Florida Healthcare is also a major supporter of university-based healthcare programs and residencies and fellowships throughout the Sunshine State. For more information, please visit [HCAFloridaHealthcare.com](https://www.HCAFloridaHealthcare.com).