

Cardiac Cath Lab Team at Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas announces: Two Texas “Firsts” in One Day

Dallas, Texas, February 22, 2021 – Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas has experienced numerous “firsts” when it comes to advances in interventional cardiology and the use of innovative new treatments and devices. From some of the first drug-eluting stents to the latest generation of aortic valves, the long lists of “firsts” is a testimony to the team’s dedication to being leaders in advanced cardiovascular care.

On Monday, February 22, the catheterization lab team led by Robert Stoler, MD, FACC, FSCAI, co-medical director of cardiology and medical director for catheterization laboratory at Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas, became the first in Texas to commercially use the Shockwave IVL System to treat severely calcified coronary arteries. Additionally, in a separate procedure, the team was the first in Texas to place SYNERGY MEGATRON™ from Boston Scientific Corporation, the first and only commercially available, purpose-built drug-eluting stent for large, proximal vessels. Both of these new procedures and the technology were approved by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) recently. In addition, these new-to-market treatment options had clinical trials conducted on the campus of Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas with Dr. Stoler as the principal investigator.

Shockwave Coronary IVL System

The Shockwave Coronary Intravascular Lithotripsy (or IVL) System uses sonic pressure waves to break up hardened blockages in the heart. The device uses a balloon to deliver the sonic pressure waves and these waves then pass through soft arterial tissue to “preferentially disrupt” calcified plaque and optimize stent placement. The clinical trial was called DISRUPT CAD III and Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas was one of the clinical research sites. The FDA approved this one week ago for widespread commercial use. “Shockwave is a disruptive technology which I believe will be a game-changer for treating complex coronary artery disease,” said Dr. Stoler.

An article published a few months ago in the [*Journal of the American College of Cardiology \(JACC\)*](#) cites that patients with an advanced form of coronary artery disease (CAD) benefited from treatment that used sonic pressure waves to break up hardened blockages in the heart. This therapy is similar to the therapy used to break up kidney stones and is known as Intravascular Lithotripsy (or IVL). IVL is an innovative technology that generates sonic pressure waves – or shockwaves – on a conventional balloon catheter to fracture the calcium deposits so that the artery can be expanded, and blood flow restored with the placement of a stent. Now that this is commercially available, more patients with cardiovascular disease will have this procedure and system by Shockwave as a treatment option.

SYNERGY MEGATRON™

Additionally, on this same day, the first in Texas commercially available SYNERGY MEGATRON™ Bioabsorbable Polymer (BP) stent was placed in a patient post the recent FDA approval. This is the first drug-eluting stent approved for large proximal vessels accommodating wide vessel diameter. In addition, this stent was approved for use in patients deemed a high bleeding risk, based on the EVOLVE Short DAPT clinical trial. The team at Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas was the top enrolling site in the nation.

“As drug-eluting stents have evolved over the years, we continue to remain on the forefront of the technology. While this is another first commercial use for us, it is not the first placement since we have been involved in the trials leading up to the recent approval by the FDA,” says Dr. Stoler. “We are pleased to work in tandem with medical device companies as the latest treatment options become approved by the FDA. Ultimately, the patient benefits when a variety of treatment options are available and can be customized according to an individual patient’s need. Combining a larger toolbox with the expertise of the interventional cardiologists on the medical staff here at Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital leads to quality outcomes for patients.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 48 percent of US adults have some form of cardiovascular disease. Stents are small, wire mesh tubes inserted to essentially prop open blocked arteries in people at risk for a heart attack or stroke. The procedure, performed in a catheterization laboratory, is a fairly common heart procedure performed by interventional cardiologists. Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas performed more than 12,778 cath lab procedures total in fiscal year 2020.

About Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital - Dallas

Founded in a tradition of research and innovation, Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas† opened in 2002 as the region’s first and only dedicated hospital to heart and vascular care. The Dallas hospital is located adjacent to Baylor University Medical Center – Dallas, a part of Baylor Scott & White Health. Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas has cardiology services available at Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth. With more than 43,000 patient registrations annually, a broad array of advanced cardiac interventional procedures and vascular surgeries are available, as well as diagnostic imaging and cardiac rehabilitative services. Programs on wellness and prevention are offered for the community. Additional information may be found at the hospital’s website, [BSWHealth.com/HeartDFW](https://www.bswhealth.com/HeartDFW) or on the app, Baylor Heart Center, downloaded from the Apple store. To find a specialist, please call 1.844.BSW.DOCS.

About Baylor Scott & White Health

As the largest not-for-profit health system in the state of Texas, Baylor Scott & White Health promotes the health and well-being of every individual, family and community it serves. An integrated care delivery network, the system includes the Scott and White Health Plan, Baylor Scott & White Research Institute and Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance. Through 51 hospitals and more than 1,100 access points including flagship academic medical centers in Dallas and Temple, the system offers the full continuum of care, from primary to award-winning specialty care, throughout Texas, and via virtual touchpoints. If its service area were a state, it would be the eighth largest, providing care to a population larger than that of the state of Georgia. Founded as a Christian ministry of healing, Baylor Scott & White is proud to honor its century-long legacy through its commitment to improving accessibility, affordability and the customer experience for all. For more information, visit [BSWHealth.com](https://www.bswhealth.com).

† Joint ownership with physicians.

Notice Regarding Physician Ownership: Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas is a hospital in which physicians have an ownership or investment interest. The list of the physician owners or investors is available to you upon request. Physicians provide clinical services as members of the medical staff at one of Baylor Scott & White Health’s subsidiary, community or affiliated medical centers and are neither employees nor agents of those medical centers, Baylor Health Care System, Scott & White Healthcare or Baylor Scott & White Health.

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