



HEART HOSPITAL of NEW MEXICO
An entire hospital fighting heart disease.

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Heart Hospital of New Mexico Participates in Clinical Trial to Determine the Lower Limits of Anticoagulation in the On-X Prosthetic Heart Valve

Successful completion could result in first-ever low-dose anticoagulation therapy recommendations for a mechanical heart valve

Albuquerque, New Mexico (February 2007) –Dr. Paul Levy, a physician with New Mexico Heart Institute, is one of a select group of cardiothoracic surgeons participating in a new clinical trial to determine the lower limits of anti-coagulation for a mechanical heart valve. Dr. Levy implanted the On-X[®] Prosthetic Heart Valve into the first patient admitted into the study at Heart Hospital of New Mexico on February 8, 2007. Successful completion of the clinical study could result in the On-X valve becoming the only mechanical heart valve approved for low-dose anticoagulation therapy.

Anticoagulation therapy is used to slow down or stop the formation of blood clots—a potentially dangerous side effect of having a prosthetic heart valve. If this study is successful, On-X heart valve recipients would benefit from a reduction in their anticoagulation therapy, reducing the risk of bleeding problems without increasing the risk of clotting. The goal of the study is to establish the lowest limits of anticoagulation therapy for On-X valve patients and, thereby, establishing the On-X valve as a better long-term choice than tissue valves or other mechanical valves.

“This is the first FDA approved study of its kind. It is exciting to think about the prospect of implanting a mechanical heart valve with low-dose anticoagulation. Life-style limitations as well as bleeding complications would likely be fewer than with conventional mechanical valve replacement,” stated Dr. Levy.

Information about the On-X valve and reduced anticoagulation study is located at www.onxvalves.com. Additional information can also be obtained by contacting the Clinical Research Department of New Mexico Heart Institute at 505-843-2804.

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death worldwide. The American Heart Association reports that 95,000 surgeries were performed in the United States to repair or replace malfunctioning or diseased heart valves in 2003. According to a June 2004 report issued by Millennium Research Group, life-threatening heart valve disease, including stenosis and regurgitation, affected approximately five million people in the United States in 2003. Millennium Research Group predicts the heart valve market will generate more than \$700 million by 2010 due to advances in minimally invasive techniques, the increasing incidents of cardiovascular disease and the aging population.

The Heart Hospital of New Mexico was established in 1999, through a joint effort between the state’s leading cardiology and cardiovascular surgery groups, as an entire medical facility dedicated to fighting heart disease. Located on an 8 acre campus near downtown Albuquerque, it is the state’s first free-standing heart facility, dedicated to providing the most advanced, patient-centered, family-centered care for the region. Services include comprehensive cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, a full range of community and patient education and cardiac rehabilitation. For more information, go to www.hearthospitalnm.com.

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