

Recognized for Excellence



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The coronary interventional program at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Heart Institute has been recognized nationally as the Tampa Bay region's best. Pictured L-R: Dr. Sunil Gupta, Dr. Ketul Chauhan, Cardiac Cath Lab Manager Huey Metts, RN, RTR, MBA, and Debbie Toole, RN.

OPPOSITE PAGE: It's game, set, match for Phyllis Krieger, here with husband Merrill, thanks to the hospital's electrophysiology program.

- ♥ Ranked highest in the Tampa Bay region for coronary interventional procedures by *Healthgrades*
- ♥ Recipient of *Healthgrades* Coronary Intervention Excellence Award™ 2010
- ♥ East Pasco County's *only* chest pain-accredited facility with Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) by the Society of Chest Pain Centers
- ♥ The *only* hospital in East Pasco County to be heart failure-accredited by the Healthcare Accreditation Colloquium
- ♥ The *only* fully accredited (RCES) electrophysiology team in the state of Florida by Cardiovascular Credentialing International

To learn more about how we achieved our ranking as Tampa Bay's best visit www.fhzeph.org and click on **Better!**

When Phyllis Krieger's Heart Was Broken, We Mended It.

Accustomed to getting up at 6 a.m., walking and playing tennis, Phyllis Krieger hadn't been to a doctor in 25 years. "I'm one of those people who believes if it isn't broken, don't fix it."

But when the usually active sixty-something suddenly started feeling lethargic and short-winded over the last couple of months, she asked a friend to help her find a doctor. "I knew something was wrong, I just didn't know what it was."

Her friend recommended board-certified Dr. Cristina Cuevas-Korensky, of the Medical Group of Tampa Bay (MGTB), who referred her to cardiologists Ketul Chauhan and Sunil Gupta at the Premier Heart & Vascular Center.

"We performed an echocardiogram to determine Mrs. Krieger's heart function. Normal is 60 percent; her heart was operating at 20 percent. Her heart rate was 140 beats a minute. She was in congestive heart failure," Dr. Gupta explained. "He said he didn't know how I was functioning and that he was admitting me to the hospital immediately," Phyllis remembers.

"We treated her with medications to start bringing her heart rate down," Dr. Gupta said "and had her admitted to the hospital where Dr. Chauhan and I knew she'd be getting the very best care available."

Phyllis went to the emergency room, by this time so weak she couldn't get into bed from her chair next to the bed without help. While she had no pain, she still had extreme shortness of breath and a very high heart rate. "I'd always been so active. Now I was really scared."

Phyllis had to wait a couple of days until her heart rate came down before the catheterization lab could do an angiogram to see if there were any blockages that could be causing her problem.

The catheterization revealed she had no coronary disease, no blockage of the arteries that would prevent the flow of blood to her heart. But the electrophysiology study determined that the electrical systems in Phyllis' heart weren't functioning properly. To correct the problem, electrophysiologist Dr. Nadim Khan performed an atrial ablation – a procedure used to correct a faulty electrical pathway in the heart.

"Most people think of blocked arteries and bypass when they think of heart problems," says Dr. Khan. "But often the problem has to do with the heart's electrical impulses. In Phyllis' case we located the spot where the heart was firing too rapidly and causing it to fail. Then we ablated it. The hope is her heart will now begin to regain strength."

Phyllis had her angiogram on Monday, atrial ablation Wednesday, was home on Thursday and up and about on Friday. Her time in the hospital was made easier by the attention she received from her doctors and nurses.

"My doctors came to see me every day, like

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"It may sound funny to say this about a heart procedure, but it really was a positive experience."

Dr. Khan, who performs approximately 300 ablations a year, was able to locate the exact source of Phyllis' problem, called an atrial tachycardia, thanks to the hospital's 3-D mapping technology. "The hospital's electrophysiology program is absolutely state-of-the art," Khan says.