

NEWS RELEASE

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Study by Harbin Clinic Cardiologists Shows 50% Reduction in Re-Admission Rates for Congestive Heart Failure Patients Who Receive Aquapheresis

For Immediate Release

ROME, Ga., July 2, 2011 – Re-admission rates for patients with congestive heart failure are reduced by 50% when they are treated with aquapheresis, according to an observational study by Harbin Clinic Cardiologists and published in the spring issue of TriStar Heart Journal.

The American Heart Association estimates that 5.8 million Americans have congestive heart failure. According to Harbin Clinic Cardiologist Himanshu M. Patel, MD., “The average survival after a patient’s first hospitalization for congestive heart failure is alarmingly low -- less than 2 years for women and less than 3 years for men.”

Inpatient congestive heart failure treatment has remained relatively unchanged for a number of years. Cornerstones of treatment include intravenous diuretics, sodium, and

fluid restriction, ACE inhibitors, beta-blockers, blood pressure control, and aldosterone blockers. Other common treatment options are inotropic agents in low cardiac output states and nesiritide infusions in hypertensive states.

With FDA approval, Harbin Clinic cardiologists at Redmond Regional Medical Center have been treating congestive heart failure patients with aquapheresis for the past 21 months. The treatment involves the removal of blood through a peripheral or central venous catheter. Salt and water is filtered from the blood through a console containing two pumps. Excess fluid and salt are removed and blood is returned to the patient.

According to Dr. Patel, the 30-day re-admission rate for congestive heart failure patients who receive traditional treatment is 20%. Re-admission for patients in the study who received aquapheresis was 12%.

“We have demonstrated that aquapheresis reduces the re-admission rate of our patients,” Dr. Patel said. “It is our hope that a longer study will demonstrate that aquapheresis also extends the lives of our patients.”

Dr. Patel received his medical degree from Louisiana State University and did his residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA and a Fellowship in cardiology at Albert Einstein Medical Center. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease.

Harbin Clinic is Georgia’s largest physician-owned multi-specialty practice with more than 200 providers throughout North West Georgia.

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