

A COMPREHENSIVE
APPROACH TO

TREATING HEART DISEASE

UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE



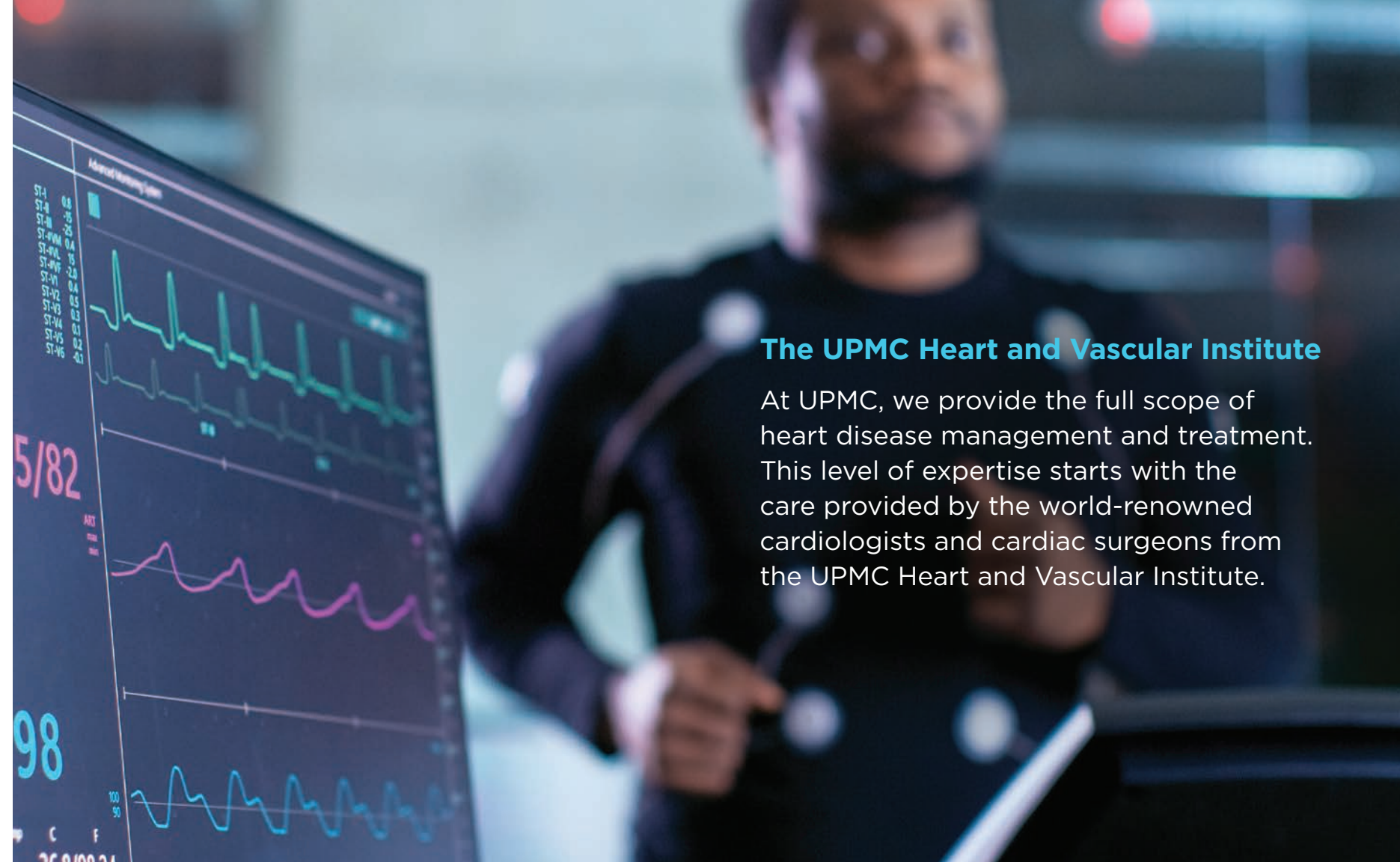
A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO TREATING HEART DISEASE

UPMC is home to one of the most experienced and comprehensive heart failure centers in the country. Our pioneering history in the management and treatment of heart disease has helped strengthen our position as national leaders in patient care and research.

Caring for patients with heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States, requires a team approach. At UPMC, collaboration between the UPMC Heart Transplant Program and the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute provides a single point of entry and a seamless transition of care for patients with heart disease.



All photos taken before applicable masking and social distancing guidelines.



The UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute

At UPMC, we provide the full scope of heart disease management and treatment. This level of expertise starts with the care provided by the world-renowned cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute.



Our program comprises advanced specialty centers and services which allow us to provide personalized care to every patient. These include:

- Cardio-Oncology
- Coronary Interventional Procedures
- Electrophysiology
- Endovascular and Vascular Surgery
- Magee-Womens Heart Program
- Non-invasive Cardiology Services
- Preventative Cardiology
- Robotic Cardiac Surgery
- Sports Cardiology
- Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR)
- Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (TEER)
- UPMC Advanced Heart Failure Center
- UPMC Center for Atrial Fibrillation
- UPMC Center for Inherited Heart Disease
- UPMC Center for Heart Valve Disease
- UPMC Limb Preservation Center
- UPMC Center for Thoracic Aortic Disease
- UPMC Vein Center



Pioneers in VAD Development and Implantation

In 1990, UPMC became the first medical center to discharge a patient on a ventricular assist device (VAD). Today, UPMC's legacy continues as one of the most active VAD programs in the country.

As part of the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute and the UPMC Heart Transplant Program, our experts work together to closely monitor patients with heart failure to determine if a VAD is the most appropriate treatment option. A VAD is typically utilized for patients requiring:

- A bridge to transplant — Patients receive a VAD to stabilize their condition while awaiting heart transplantation.
- A destination therapy — These patients live on the pump as an alternative to transplantation. VAD technology for severe heart failure improves quality of life for patients and allows them to live a life free of heart failure symptoms.

“Determining the patients who would benefit from a VAD and then VAD implantation requires a full team. We have physicians, nurses, and bioengineers working together 24 hours a day, 7 days a week along with referring physicians to co-manage all aspects of patient care.”

Gavin Hickey, MD
Medical Director, UPMC VAD Program





The UPMC Heart Transplant Program

For patients with advanced heart failure who require a heart transplant, the close partnership among our experts creates a seamless transition of care to the UPMC Heart Transplant Program. With a rich history that includes performing more than 1,400 transplants since the program's inception, the UPMC Heart Transplant Program is one of the most experienced in the world.

We evaluate every patient referred to us and we accept traditional and complex, high-risk cases. Our team will evaluate patients with the following conditions or risk factors:

- Intolerance to guideline directed medical therapy due to hypotension requiring deescalating doses or medication discontinuation
- Two or more admissions for heart failure within the last six months
- Progressive heart failure symptoms despite guideline directed medical therapy
- Patients who do not respond to cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) and have persistent heart failure symptoms six months post CRT device implant
- Worsening kidney function or hyponatremia
- Worsening liver function and/or hepatic congestion
- Worsening pulmonary hypertension by TTE
- Worsening right ventricular function

"If you are not sure if it's time to refer a patient to our team, give us a call. We want to start working with you and your patient early so we have more time to determine what is best for them. Waiting too long to refer a patient can be detrimental to their health."

David Kaczorowski, MD

Surgical Director, Advanced Heart Failure Center, UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute



A Collaborative Approach

At UPMC, we provide the full scope of heart disease treatment. From diagnosis and disease management through the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute, to the expert transplant care at the Heart Transplant Program, to innovative research and education, we are one cohesive team.

Our team also includes you - the referring physician. We will work with you and your team to ensure a seamless referral process and will collaborate with you to develop an individualized treatment plan that best fits the unique needs of your patient.

For more information, or to meet with our team, email cttransplant@upmc.edu.





CONTACT US

Learn more about our program by
visiting [UPMC.com/HeartReferral](https://www.upmc.com/HeartReferral).

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