

Allegheny General Hospital is a 724-bed academic medical center serving Pittsburgh and the surrounding five-state area.

Founded in 1885 on Pittsburgh's historic North Side, the hospital has earned an international reputation for excellence and innovation in the care of patients, medical education and research. Allegheny General has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine as one of "America's Best Hospitals" for a number of clinical specialties. The hospital has also been lauded as one of America's top 25 medical centers by the AARP's *Modern Maturity* magazine.

Allegheny General Hospital—and its Suburban Campus in nearby Bellevue—annually admits 31,500 patients and logs about 60,000 emergency visits and more than 26,000 surgical procedures. Nearly 1,000 physicians and approximately 4,500 employees share the hospital's commitment to excellence.

A member of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, Allegheny General Hospital is a western Pennsylvania campus for the Philadelphia-based Drexel University College of Medicine; third- and fourth-year medical students receive clinical training at the hospital.



About the Institute

Allegheny General Hospital has long been renowned for its visionary approach to treating cardiovascular disease. Now, with the creation of the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute, the hospital brings its heart and vascular specialists and services together — in one convenient location. This state-of-the-art facility includes customized areas for patient examinations, consultations, laboratory testing and diagnostic procedures, as well as scheduling, registration, nursing support and lifestyle management programs.



The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute

at Allegheny General Hospital

A part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System

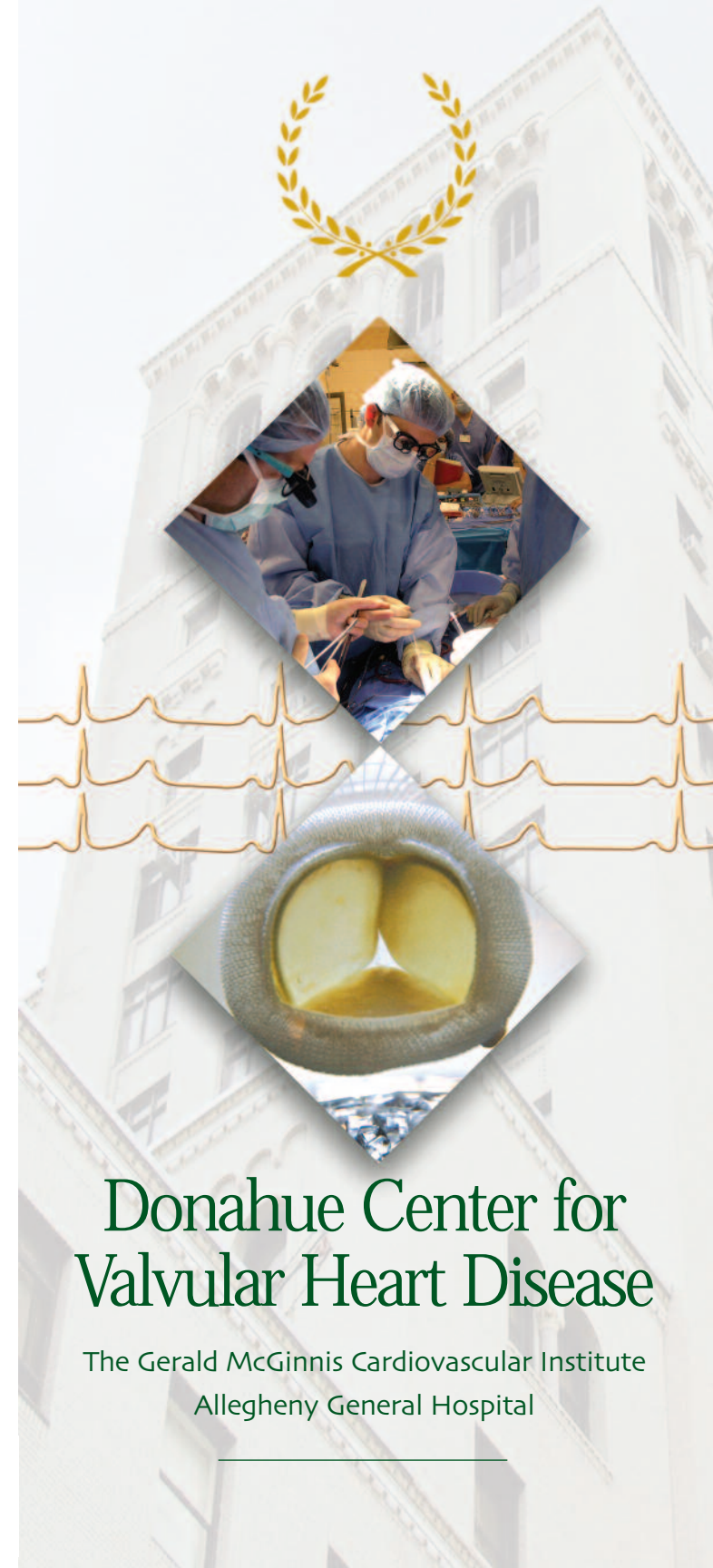
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Donahue Center for Valvular Heart Disease

The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute
Allegheny General Hospital



Cardiac surgeon George Magovern Jr., M.D., evaluates a patient referred for valve replacement or repair.

About the Valvular Heart Disease Program

For more than half a century, Allegheny General surgeons have forged a depth of experience in pioneering new techniques and technologies in valve care – from performing Pennsylvania's first heart-valve replacement in the 1950s to tackling complicated procedures such as aortic root replacement to inventing the revolutionary sutureless valve.

Treatments for Valvular Heart Disease

Valve disease specialists within the Cardiovascular Institute are skilled at treating valve problems with both non-surgical and surgical procedures.

• Balloon Valvuloplasty

For patients whose mitral, aortic or pulmonary valves are narrowed, balloon valvuloplasty can represent an excellent non-surgical option. During this minimally

invasive procedure, a tiny balloon-tipped catheter is directed to the narrowed valve, where it is inflated and deflated several times, until the valve opening is widened sufficiently.

• Mitral Valve Repair

Another choice for some patients with valvular heart disease is mitral valve repair. Due to considerations such as life-long use of anti-coagulation medication or the durability span of an artificial valve, Cardiovascular Institute surgeons opt to repair mitral valves, whenever possible, rather than replacing them. Patients with repaired mitral valves often experience faster recovery from surgery, excellent survival rates and reduced risk of stroke.

• Aortic Root Replacement

Allegheny General's surgeons specialize in the replacement of the aortic root – a procedure that spares the patient more involved aortic valve replacement surgery. Aneurysms can occur in the aorta at its root, eventually causing the aorta to widen and the aortic valve to leak. Aortic root replacement corrects this problem, while still leaving the valve itself intact.

• Valve Replacement

The institute's valvular heart disease specialists have built an exceptional depth of expertise at valve replacement surgery, including the most complex cases involving multiple valves or the challenges of replacing failed prosthetic valves. Patients at higher risk – including older adults whose disease or general health precluded potentially lifesaving surgery in the past – now have more options than ever in successful surgical treatment of valve disease. Minimally invasive approaches for treating valve disease were pioneered by the institute's physicians.

Post-surgical Management

Many patients who have had valve replacement surgery must take anticoagulant medication for life to ensure that clots don't develop on and around their new valves. Allegheny General's Cardiovascular Institute offers an innovative approach to make anticoagulation therapy more convenient and effective. The hospital created a dedicated anticoagulation therapy clinic, ensuring that patients get regular testing and timely medication adjustment from a staff of clinic employees, devoted to anticoagulation management.

For More Information

To schedule an appointment with any of our physicians or for more information, call 1-877-97-HEART, or visit www.mcginniscvi.org.

Directions and Parking Information

The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute is located on the first floor of Allegheny General Hospital, in the Northwest Wing. Enter the hospital through the Sandusky Street Entrance and follow the signs. Patients may valet park at the Sandusky entrance, or park in the main patient parking facility, the James Street Garage.

Registration

Patients may register in the lobby, immediately upon entering the Sandusky Entrance of Allegheny General Hospital. Registration services are also available within the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute.