Interventional Radiology

Jennifer Calarco, charge nurse in the Interventional Radiology department says that every procedure is a matter of life and/or limb. Just recently, a 21 year old body builder came into the Interventional Radiology department with pain in his arm. After having a series of tests done, it was determined that he had a life-threatening blood clot from his elbow to his chest. Due to our state of the art equipment in this department, we were able to diagnose him and treat him within 24 hours. Dr. Sanguily directly administered medication that was infused overnight. The next day, the clot had dissipated, the first step in his swift recovery.

“Thanks to the continued support of our donors, Martin Health System benefits by having equipment normally found in a university hospital” said Karen Heinlein, Imaging Manager at Martin North. Karen tells her staff daily to treat their patients like they would treat their family members because that’s what they become.

In the Interventional Radiation Suite, we also have an Embolization room. Ms. Calarco, charge nurse, told us of many life-saving stories. Just to name one story; Jenifer tells us about a patient who came in with an internal bleed. Normally, this patient would be taken into surgery under total sedation, enhancing the patients’ overall risk. At the Interventional Radiology department, a patient can come in for a minimally invasive procedure which would easily and quickly repair or stop the bleed. Ms. Calarco also shared a story about a young lady who came in for a total hysterectomy. The young woman was told she needed to have a hysterectomy due to fibrous tumors in her uterus. She consulted with Dr. Todd Schroeder who was able to use the minimally invasive procedure to stop the bleeding and save this young lady’s uterus. Not only did this procedure cut down on her surgical risk and recovery time it, allowed this young lady the opportunity to have more children.
In addition to performing minimally invasive procedures, doctors can also utilize the Interventional Radiology Suite to implant Chemo Beads also known as Chemo Embolization. Instead of receiving radiation or chemotherapy treatment that can destroy or harm healthy tissues, Chemo Beads are inserted directly into the tumor. Doctors inject these beads into the tumor and localize the treatment area to a specific body part and kill the tumor.

Thank you from Dr. Nicholas Garcia, Dr. Todd Schroeder, Jennifer Calarco, Karen Heinlein, Dr. Julio Sanguily & all of the staff at the Interventional Radiology Department.