To bring world-class neurosurgical care to its patients, Lourdes Health System has expanded an innovative partnership with Drexel Neurosciences Institute (DNI). Lourdes and DNI are creating a comprehensive hub for neurosurgery in South Jersey. As a result, Lourdes patients are now cared for and treated by one of the foremost neurosurgical staffs in the nation.

The partnership will soon allow Lourdes to offer advanced, minimally invasive neurosurgical procedures for stroke, brain aneurysms and other brain and spine conditions. Microsurgery and catheter-based procedures performed through small access points reduce postoperative pain, speed recovery and shorten hospital stays—and are sometimes available on an outpatient basis.

Cross-Trained in Catheter-Based Treatments

Lourdes physicians and staff have worked with DNI neurosurgeons for many years. Now, they will be able to keep patients close to home with the same center-of-excellence level of care—a better arrangement for patients and their families.

The highly organized services located at Lourdes are staffed by surgeons with a depth of experience in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the complete range of conditions affecting the brain and spine. These specialists are dual trained—in both open surgical techniques (through external incisions) and endovascular techniques using biplane imaging (see page 2). The latter approach is the least invasive strategy and takes advantage of diagnostic angiography and other imaging in such procedures as angioplasty, stenting, clot retrieval or embolization of bleeds for care of stroke and a variety of other conditions that lend themselves to interventional procedures.

Ready to Intervene to Save Function and Lives

The staff proceeds to surgical intervention only if other options have been eliminated. The goal is always to assess patients carefully and thoroughly, and then to manage them medically if possible.

This strategic arrangement for neurosurgical services is quickly making Lourdes a referral center for neurosurgery patients from other hospitals throughout southern New Jersey.

The Lourdes/DNI neurosurgeons are on call around the clock for all elective interventions and emergencies of the brain and spine. Among microsurgical techniques, the surgeons take advantage of stereotactic neurosurgery, which allows them to approach small targets in the brain through a minimal opening, but with extraordinary spatial precision.

The team uses advanced radiologic imaging techniques to guide the procedures. These surgeons receive in-house patients as well as patients transferred by ground or air. The goal is to preserve, save or restore functionality in each individual to the fullest extent possible in all cases.

The DNI/Lourdes partnership provides for the best triage of brain and spine care in the South Jersey service area. The group is active in research and clinical trials, giving their patients the opportunity to benefit from the newest potential improvements in care.

DNI is led by internationally renowned neurosurgeon Erol Veznedaroglu, MD, FACS, FAANS, FAHA. Dr. Vez, as he is known, is one of the most experienced cerebrovascular neurosurgeons in the U.S. The program’s neurosurgeons include Mandy Binning, MD, director of the Lourdes neurosurgery program; Kenneth Liebman, MD, FACS, FAANS; and Zakaria Hakma, MD.

DNI physicians see patients at LourdesCare at Cherry Hill.

For appointments, call 1-844-464-6387.

For more information, visit www.lourdesnet.org or call 1-888-LOURDES (1-888-568-7337).

Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center • Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County
Catheter Treatments for Stroke, Other Brain Conditions, with Bi-Plane Imaging Improve Emergency Care, Other Procedures

Biplane imaging—coming soon onsite at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center—is an important capability for neurosurgery, especially for procedures involving the vessels of the brain. Biplane is a digital X-ray technology that permits imaging of vessels from two dimensions and use of that imaging to construct a three-dimensional roadmap of blood-vessel flow within the brain for the neurosurgery team to follow.

This technology is important to locate sites requiring intervention and to monitor the progress and success of treatment in the interventional suite. Angiography must be highly selective when determining which of the smaller vessels of the brain need to be reopened in treating a stroke.

Lourdes is finalizing upgrade of operating rooms and purchase of specialized equipment for this capability. The state-of-the-science system provides highly detailed real-time images of blood vessels in the central nervous system and permits Lourdes/DNI neurosurgeons to observe the advance, control and withdrawal of guide wires, catheters and other devices during procedures.

Giving the neurosurgical team the ability to perform either endovascular procedures or microsurgery within one operating room, the new facility to be online soon at Lourdes offers the advantage of a hybrid O.R./lab environment. There, patients get the benefit of biplane imaging regardless of the procedure they are undergoing and avoid transport to a second operating room or different team of specialists if they should require conversion to another procedure.

For more information, visit www.lourdesnet.org or call +888-LOURDES (+888-568-7337).

A publication of: Lourdes Health System
1600 Haddon Avenue • Camden, NJ 08103 • www.lourdesnet.org
1-888-LOURDES (+888-568-7337) • AVP, Communications: Carol Lynn Daly
Publications Manager: Josh Bernstein • Writer: Russ Allen