

Heart failure affects more than 5 million Americans on a yearly basis half of whom are women. The burden on the health care system, patients, families and employers is staggering and, until the last several years, chronic heart failure had a two year prognosis of less than 50%.

"Today, we are closer to an 80% two year prognosis but aggressive early management is important to halt the progression of the disease," notes cardiologist Debbie Rinde-Hoffman, M.D. "Control of blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol as well as regular exercise, attaining ideal body weight and discontinuation of smoking are the most important factors to control the disease."



Debbie Rinde-Hoffman, M.D.

Tampa General Hospital, Leading the Leading- Edge

"Approximately 100,000 patients per year could potentially benefit from advanced heart failure therapy," says Christiano Caldeira, M.D., cardiothoracic surgeon and director of heart transplantation at Tampa General Hospital. "When you consider the statistics, there is a huge disparity. Only about 2,500 heart transplants are performed in the U.S. on an annual basis because of a lack of donors.

"This has resulted in great advancements in the field of ventricular assist devices (VAD) that act as a bridge to transplant and can keep patients alive that otherwise would not survive while waiting for a donor heart. Ten years ago, if you needed a transplant, you went on the list and you waited until a heart became available. That was the only option before VADs were developed."

Excellence, By The Numbers

Tampa General Hospital's heart transplant program ranks in the top five in the nation and has one of the highest survival rates. They perform 55 to 60 transplants each year and on February 7th 2011, Dr. Caldeira performed the 1,000th heart transplant in the program's 25 year history. Pioneers in advanced technology for heart care, the experts at Tampa General Hospital have been, and continue to be involved in studies and trials to develop the latest devices and procedures for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

"Some patients are not candidates for transplant," says Dr. Hoffman. "Technological advances have enabled VADs to be reduced in size enough that they can be used as a destination device, meaning that it can also be used as a long term solution, with less chance of complication and allows the patient to live longer with a better quality of life."

Dr. Caldeira, Dr. Hoffman and their colleagues at Tampa General Hospital provide today's most leading-edge advances in heart care and are also dedicated to the development of the technologies and treatments of tomorrow.

"We are involved in ongoing clinical trials addressing the treatment of chronic heart failure," says Dr. Caldeira. "We have been involved in the investigation of many innovative devices that improve the



Christiano Caldeira, M.D.

functionality of the heart to decrease the negative impact of the disease."

"We have a truly multidisciplinary program," Dr. Hoffman adds. "We address the entire patient's needs that include surgery, cardiac rehabilitation, and care and assistance from infectious disease specialists, pulmonary physicians, social workers, psychologists and even financial counselors to make sure our patients, families and caregivers receive excellent care and all the information they require to manage the disease."

Tampa General Hospital was named one of the nation's top 50 hospitals for heart and heart surgery 2011-12 by U.S. News & World Report, for the fourth consecutive year.

To learn more about Tampa General Hospital's Cardiac Care, visit the website at www.TGH.org.

