



BRIGHAM AND
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



Understanding

ADVANCED HEART
DISEASE

APPROACHES TO ADVANCED HEART DISEASE

Twenty years ago, Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) performed the first successful heart transplant in New England. Five years ago, Brigham and Women's performed the first implantation of a ventricular assist device in New England for permanent support of a failing heart. Today, a multidisciplinary team of BWH experts in the Advanced Heart Disease Program is pioneering new treatment approaches that will prevent many patients with advanced heart disease from ever needing heart replacement and provide the latest treatment alternatives.

Focusing on individualized treatment approaches, our experts in the Advanced Heart Disease Program – part of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Cardiovascular Center – provide state-of-the-art treatment and diagnostic services for patients with heart failure and depressed or normal ventricular systolic function, as well as other severe, life-threatening cardiac conditions.

Advanced Heart Disease Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital

Comprehensive Evaluation and Treatment

The Advanced Heart Disease Program provides world-class evaluation and treatment of the most complex cases of heart disease and failure.

Patients of our Program receive a comprehensive evaluation of their condition that can include:

- Family and medical history;
- Careful clinical assessment including patient goals for treatment;
- Cardiopulmonary testing to determine the body's capacity to exercise;
- Sophisticated CT scan, echo or MRI scan.

For some patients, we may need to perform a more invasive test, such as biopsy or catheterization of the heart and arteries. When this is necessary, our patients can be assured that the most highly qualified physicians in this specialized area are performing these tests.

After a patient is diagnosed as having advanced heart disease, they have access to the most state-of-the-art care for their condition.

Patients are considered for treatments including:

- Enhancement of standard medical therapy;
- New or investigational medications;
- Devices (biventricular pacemakers);
- Reconstructive surgical therapy including high-risk candidates (bypass, valve repair, ventricular reconstruction);
- Heart replacement surgeries (artificial left or right heart support, heart transplant).



Call 1-800-BWH-9999 to Make An Appointment

The Advanced Heart Disease Program can provide you with the evaluation services and treatment options you may need. Call **1-800-BWH-9999** to make an appointment with a specialist.

Team Approach to Multidisciplinary Care

The Advanced Heart Disease Program practices a team approach utilizing specially trained nurse practitioners and physicians to provide compassionate care. Our program was rated number one for heart failure care among the University Health Consortium of academic medical centers. Our team, the most experienced ventricular assist device and heart transplant group in New England, includes nationally-recognized specialists in:

- Standard and cutting-edge medical therapy, including novel vasoactive agents;
- Cardiac imaging, including MRI and positron emission tomography (PET-CT);
- Vascular medicine, including vasoreactivity testing and assessment of ventricular-vascular coupling;
- Biventricular pacing and ablation of cardiac arrhythmias;
- Surgical intervention, including high-risk revascularization, valve repair, and ventricular reconstruction;
- Left ventricular assist device (LVAD) implantation and heart transplantation.

Physicians of the Program have a close working relationship and collaborate closely with specialists in electrophysiology, catheter-based interventions, and cardiac surgery to provide comprehensive care for the management of complex cases.

Specialized Programs

Our other specialized services include:

- **The ACT Unit (Advanced Cardiac Therapy)** to allow complex monitoring and intervention in a comfortable setting without the stress of an intensive care unit.
- **Clinical Cardiovascular Genetics Program** – For patients and their family members who have genetic diseases, this program gives them the opportunity to be evaluated by a specialist and to obtain blood testing for genetic cardiac disorders. This is the first program of its kind in New England.
- **Diastolic Heart Failure Program** – A program that has been established to evaluate the 40 percent of patients with heart failure that have normal heart contraction.

Leading the Way In Research

The Advanced Heart Disease Program offers a variety of clinical trials for patients. The Program is pioneering efforts in a number of areas, including:

- Implantable hemodynamic monitors that allow patients to transmit cardiac information from home to physicians for adjustment of therapies;
- New therapies to improve kidney function in the setting of heart disease;
- Intermittent outpatient infusions of vasoactive medications;
- Percutaneous mitral valve repair;
- Cell therapy to repair injured heart tissue;
- New therapies that may allow valve repair without surgery.

Today, there are more options available to treat advanced heart disease and failure than ever before. The Advanced Heart Disease Program at BWH specializes in these conditions and can provide the most advanced state-of-the-art evaluation and treatment methods.

BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S/FAULKNER HOSPITALS

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