SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY
Enhanced care through advanced technology™

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Interventional Radiology Procedure Repairs Vice President's Aneurysm Non-Surgically

Interventional Radiologist Leads Cross-Specialty Team for Stent Placement in the Leg

Fairfax, Virginia (September 26, 2005) – To treat Vice President Dick Cheney's popliteal aneurysm located behind his knee, interventional radiologists guided a flexible, self-expanding stent through a catheter into the damaged blood vessel to block off the aneurysm and create a reinforced pathway through which blood can flow. The procedure, also called popliteal endograft placement, is typically performed while the patient is conscious, using only local anesthesia. The procedure offers less risk, less pain and less recovery time than surgical options.

An endograft is a newer version of the widely available stenting technique used throughout the body. Interventional radiologists are vascular experts who invented angioplasty and stenting in the 1960's and first used them to treat blocked arteries in the legs. Since then, interventional radiologists have utilized stenting to treat aneurysms and vascular disease throughout the body.

Interventional radiologist Anthony C. Venbrux, M.D., of George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., led the multi-specialty team of physicians who treated Cheney, along with Barry T. Katzen, M.D., an interventional radiologist at Baptist Cardiac & Vascular Institute in Miami, FL.

"Image-guided procedures offer patients a broader choice of treatment options for the management of vascular disease," stated Anthony C. Venbrux, M.D., interventional radiologist. "Recent advances in technology allow us to treat patients non-surgically for a variety of diseases – patients that only a few years ago would have required surgery."

Barry T. Katzen, M.D., added, "It was an ideal situation—utilizing the strengths of a multi-specialty team that included interventional radiologists, interventional cardiologists, vascular surgeons and anesthetists. For high-risk patients, interventional procedures are ideal because they offer a treatment option without surgery, without a large incision or stitches, without general anesthesia, and without a long hospital stay or recovery time." Katzen is a past-president of the Society of Interventional Radiology and a pioneer in the field.

Imaging Expertise

Because they are first trained in diagnostic radiology, interventional radiologists use imaging to initially understand, visualize, and diagnose the full scope of the disease's pathology and to map out the procedure, tailoring it to the individual patient. Then during the procedure, they image as they go, literally watching and guiding their catheter inside the body to the site of the problem. This technique allows interventional radiologists to deliver targeted treatments directly to the disease non-surgically.

Today many conditions that once required surgery can be treated non-surgically by interventional radiologists, including cancer, stroke, uterine fibroids, vertebral fractures, varicose veins and male infertility.

Interventional Radiologists

Interventional radiologists are board-certified physicians who specialize in minimally invasive, targeted treatments performed using imaging for guidance to treat diseases non-surgically through the blood vessels or through the skin. Their board certification includes both Vascular and Interventional Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology which are administered by the American Board of Radiology.

Interventional radiologists are available throughout the country. For a local interview or a copy of the Society of Interventional Radiology's new media sourcebook with fact sheets and medical images, email Emily@SIRweb.org or call 703-460-5572. More information can be found at www.SIRweb.org.