

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006

A Sign Of Relief: How Local Heart & Vascular Center is Changing Lives in the CSRA

AIKEN, SC – Duane Strother lives in Graniteville, SC, and has had two quadruple bypass heart surgeries, in 1982 and 1998. He used to be apprehensive about his checkups, but now, all that has changed, thanks to **Carolina Heart & Vascular Center** and their **new 64-Slice Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)**.

“I have been a patient of David Cundey’s for 26 years,” said Strother. “Due to my previous surgeries, if I had shortness of breath or chest pain, I would typically have to have a catheterization. I would always be anxious before the procedure because it is invasive, and I would usually have to stay in the hospital following the procedure. Now, with the CTA, it is a whole new ballgame.”

The prep time is much shorter and simpler with the 64-Slice CTA. A contrast material is injected into a vein. Then the scanner takes hundreds of images in approximately 10-15 seconds. These images can be processed into three dimensions and viewed on a computer screen.

“All our patients have had very positive reactions to the 64-Slice CTA – no apprehension and no discomfort,” said Dr. Cundey. “In fact, Mr. Strother told me that if I called and needed him to be scanned tomorrow, he would come back in without any qualms, which is always good to hear.”

CT imaging can be used for detecting or eliminating coronary disease in patients with chest pain. It is also useful in evaluating patients with equivocal results from stress tests, and patients with risk factors such as elevated cholesterol and diabetes who are not symptomatic, as well as assess cardiac function.

Other valuable applications for CTA include: surgical clearance and follow up of patients who have had Open Heart Surgery, assessing the arteries to the kidneys in patients with high blood pressure, evaluation of carotid arteries for stroke prevention, and evaluation of patients with abdominal aneurysms and vascular disease in the legs.

Carolina Heart & Vascular Center in Aiken is the first and only cardiovascular facility in the area to have the new 64-slice Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA) and they have scanned over 30 patients with their CTA since Tuesday September 19th.

Carolina Heart & Vascular Center is comprised of Aiken Cardiovascular Associates and Aiken Cardiovascular Surgical Associates. Founded in 2002, offices are located at 137 Miracle Drive in Aiken, SC and 154 Wren St. in Barnwell, SC. Dedicated to providing the best cardiovascular care in the CSRA, physicians at Carolina Heart & Vascular Center are members of the American Heart Association, American College of Surgeons, the International College of Surgeons, the Southern Thoracic Surgical Assoc., the Society of Thoracic Surgery, the American College of Cardiology, the American Society of Chest Physicians and South Carolina Vascular Surgery Assoc. Please visit us online at www.carolinahvc.com.

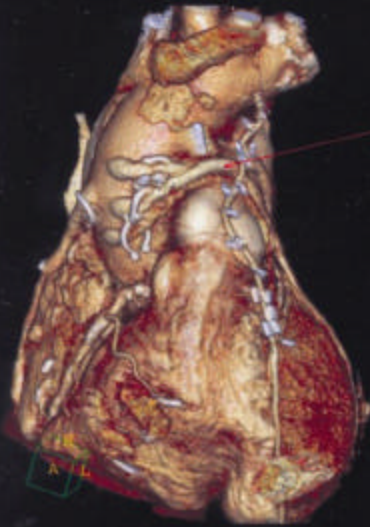
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For more information
or for interviews with Dr. Cundey or a patient,
please contact **Nicole McLeod** at **706-724-3758 x221** or **nicole@thealisongroup.com**

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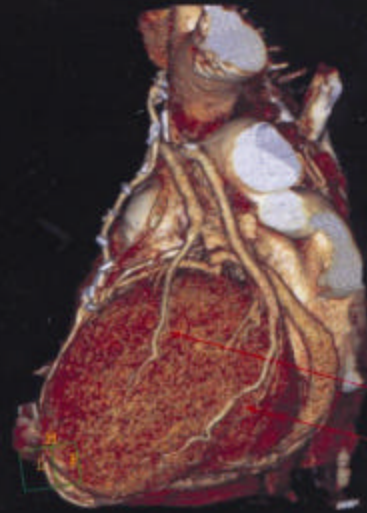
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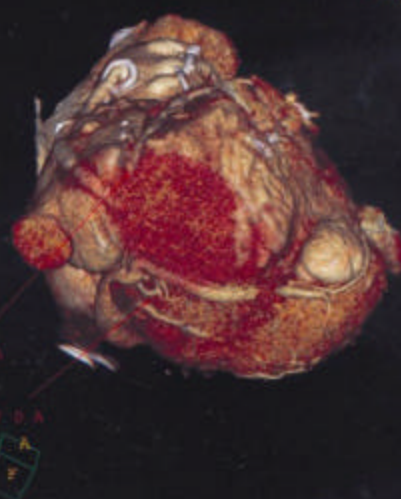
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