

Advancing cardiology by offering first-of-its-kind fully dissolving heart stent

By Dr. Sharat Koul, interventional cardiologist at Ephraim McDowell Heart & Vascular Institute and co-director of The Limb Preservation Program

Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center, right here in Danville, recently became one of three hospitals in the state to offer patients with coronary artery disease a new treatment option that literally disappears over time.

We implanted a patient with the world's first FDA-approved dissolving heart stent. The Absorb bioresorbable vascular scaffold is a major advance in the treatment of coronary artery disease, which affects 15 million people in the United States and remains a leading cause of death worldwide despite decades of medical advances.

Traditionally, stents are made of metal, but this new stent is made of a naturally dissolving material, similar to dissolving sutures. The stent disappears completely in about three years, after it has done its job of keeping a clogged artery open and promoting healing of the treated artery segment. By contrast, metal stents are permanent implants.

The absorbable stent represents the future in the management of coronary disease. We work hard to provide our patients with cutting edge treatments and we are proud to be one of the first hospitals in Kentucky to use this exciting technology. The entire cardiology team underwent extensive training on the new device to ensure optimal patient selection and implant technique.

If you would like more information or to schedule an appointment at Ephraim McDowell Heart & Vascular Institute, please call us at (859) 236-6621.