

WATCHMAN™ Program

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH



Beebe now offers the WATCHMAN™ program for patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) at the Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus. The WATCHMAN™ Left Atrial Appendage Closure Device allows patients to return to healthy lives without the increased risk of stroke or a potentially fatal bleeding event.

The WATCHMAN Implant is the only FDA-approved device proven to safely and effectively reduce stroke risk in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF).

Atrial Fibrillation Patients Benefit from WATCHMAN

About 90 percent of blood clots for patients with AFib occur in the LAA—left atrial appendage. To prevent these blood clots, the WATCHMAN team at Beebe can implant a small device to effectively close off the left atrial appendage, which reduces the risk of stroke.

The Watchman is suitable for people:

- who have atrial fibrillation not caused by heart valve problems;
- who have been recommended to take blood-thinning medicines by their doctor;
- who can take warfarin but need an alternative to blood thinners because they have a history of bleeding or a lifestyle that puts them at risk for bleeding.

What can patients expect?

The WATCHMAN procedure is similar to a stent procedure. A multidisciplinary team at Beebe, which includes an interventional cardiologist, electrophysiologist, cardiologist, and cardiac cath lab teams, installs the WATCHMAN device through a small incision, which allows a tube to thread up to the heart to implant the device.

By securely closing off the LAA using a WATCHMAN LAAC Device, the risk of stroke may be reduced and, over time, patients may be able to stop taking anticoagulants. The WATCHMAN implant procedure is performed under general anesthesia in a catheterization laboratory setting using a standard transeptal technique.

The procedure usually lasts about an hour, and the patient is typically in the hospital for 24 hours following the procedure. The patient's cardiologist continues to monitor the patient's atrial fibrillation on an ongoing basis. The WATCHMAN Device is FDA approved and is registered in 75 countries, with over 10,000 implants performed worldwide.

Who covers WATCHMAN?

WATCHMAN is different from blood thinners not only on how it works but in how much it costs. Whereas blood thinners must be taken every day for life and represent an ongoing cost, WATCHMAN is a one-time procedure and one-time cost. This means WATCHMAN can save you money over time. Additionally, putting in WATCHMAN is covered for eligible Medicare patients who meet certain national coverage criteria. It is also covered by an increasing number of commercial insurers.

Find out more at www.beebehealthcare.org/watchman.



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*Dr. Freih only sees patients at
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