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Summa Akron City and St. Thomas Hospitals ranked #13 in Ohio by U.S. News & World Report

Both hospitals also were ranked as high performing in these adult procedures and conditions: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart bypass surgery and heart failure.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated nearly 5,000 hospitals and analyzed survey results from physicians across the U.S. in order to rank the best hospitals.

2015 Top Doctors

Cleveland Magazine, in conjunction with Castle Connolly Medical Ltd., a research and information company, has released the 2015 Top Doctors list in the northeast Ohio region. Summa Health congratulates all physicians recognized for providing high quality, compassionate care for their patients.

Visit Castle Connolly’s website at http://www.castleconnolly.com/doctors/index.cfm to search for a specific physician by name, location, medical specialty, hospital or insurance provider.

Call (800) 237-8662 to schedule an appointment with a Summa physician. Learn more about the services and programs Summa Health offers by visiting summahealth.org.

Welcome to thrive

On the cover: Jennifer Meade and son, Kingston, visit the team of Summa physicians who cared for her during her high-risk pregnancy.

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Who Would You Trust with a High-Risk Pregnancy?

When Jennifer Meade discovered she was pregnant with her fourth child, she didn’t realize how dangerous another birth could be for her weak heart.

“I knew it was risky, but I didn’t know how risky,” she said.

Two years earlier, Jennifer had been diagnosed with severe cardiomyopathy, a genetic condition that weakens the heart muscle. She improved after surgery and medication, but her fourth pregnancy presented unique challenges. Even in a healthy patient, pregnancy puts an increased workload on the heart. For a patient like Jennifer with limited cardiac function, it can be much more complicated.

Her OB/GYN immediately referred her to Angela Silber, M.D., Summa Physicians Inc. – Women’s Health and chief of maternal fetal medicine. She leads a tightly coordinated team of experts at Summa Akron City Hospital.

“Cardiac disease in pregnancy is a challenge,” said Dr. Silber. “You need all sorts of specialists to get the heart through the labor of labor. Everybody had their role giving Jennifer everything she needed during labor and postpartum. With an enlarged heart like hers, the heart muscle has less strength and less ability to contract. During pregnancy, the body makes more fluids and the heart needs to work even harder. I compare it to running a marathon.”

In the second trimester of pregnancy, the volume of fluids increases significantly, putting even greater strain on an already burdened heart, according to Silber.

Jennifer went into the hospital two days before she was induced. To protect her patient before, during and after delivery, Dr. Silber brought in Jennifer’s obstetrician and cardiologist, as well as an anesthesiologist and specially trained nurses from intensive care, telemetry and labor and delivery. A cardiac nurse monitored her heart throughout delivery. Although Jennifer didn’t realize it at the time, a “crash cart” was placed outside the door of her birthing suite in case she needed to be revived.

“I felt like they were watching over me very closely,” said Jennifer. In the weeks leading up to her delivery date, she was seeing cardiologist Otfried Niedermaier, M.D., Summa Physicians Inc.–Cardiology, once a month and Dr. Silber nearly every week. She also kept regular appointments with her OB/GYN, Thomas Mendise, M.D., Summa Physicians Inc.–Obstetrics/Gynecology.

“An intern told me they rewrote my birth plan six times,” said Jennifer. “Normally I just show up and have a baby. I thought, okay, this must be pretty serious.”

All her specialists worked closely as a team, coordinating their care to keep Jennifer and her baby safe.

Immediately after delivery, Jennifer was moved to the ICU.

“When I got there, they did everything they could to make me feel comfortable,” she said. “But when you have a baby, all you want to do is be with him. I was taken away from him for my own safety, but Dr. Silber made special arrangements for him to come to my ICU room.”

Being a mother herself, Dr. Silber understood Jennifer’s feelings.

“I feel that being a mother makes you a better obstetrician,” she said. “The experience of pregnancy makes you able to relate and put yourself in the patient’s shoes…not only the physical pain but the emotional pain. I told Jennifer ‘I know you’re concerned about your baby, but we have to take care of you, too.’”

After a smooth delivery, Jennifer brought home her healthy baby boy, Kingston. “I feel I’m here today because of Summa. With the amount of doctors and nurses Dr. Silber had with her, I felt safe the whole time,” said Jennifer. “She was definitely a good leader. They worked really well as a team to keep me and my baby safe.”

Summa is committed to safe, comfortable, personalized maternity care. In fact, Summa Akron City Hospital is one of the region’s safest places to give birth, thanks to the Level III perinatal center for high-risk pregnancies (like Jennifer’s) and a neonatal ICU staffed by Akron Children’s Hospital neonatologists and nurses.

Summa has won three consecutive awards from the Ohio Patient Safety Institute (OPSI) from 2012 through 2014. In 2012, Summa Akron City Hospital was one of only two Ohio hospitals to receive OPSI’s Best Practice Award. Summa also has one of the lowest C-section rates in the state. Summa is unwavering in its commitment to keeping both moms and babies safe.

Summa’s team of specialists helped Jennifer Meade safely deliver a healthy baby boy.
As a part of its ongoing commitment to women’s health, Summa Health invested more than $4 million to open a new multidisciplinary Breast Center on its Akron hospital campus and install 3D mammography at all its locations.

In addition, Summa Health installed new 3D mammography imaging technology at all eight of its breast screening locations. Summa is the only healthcare provider in the region to offer this FDA-approved imaging option for screening mammograms. 3D mammography offers distinct advantages over 2D technology, including improved cancer detection, less false positives and fewer call backs for additional images.

Don’t wait – get screened. It absolutely matters.

Call (888) 908-0314 or visit summahhealth.org/getscreened to schedule a 2D or 3D mammogram today.
and, ultimately, health outcomes. In total, there are fewer than 300 active Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers across the country.

Improving hospital maternity care practices to support women who choose to breastfeed also benefits non-breastfeeding families. Summa Health is also well-known for its skin-to-skin program, “Let’s Stay Together,” where a newborn remains in close contact with the mother for the first hour after birth. Skin-to-skin contact immediately after birth helps regulate body temperature, slows the baby’s heart rate and promotes a smooth transition for babies from the womb to the outside world. Summa is also a major advocate of 24-hour “rooming-in” to reduce separation of mother and newborn after birth. All mothers who choose to deliver their babies at Summa Akron City Hospital will have a special, supportive and unique delivery experience.

The process toward receiving Baby-Friendly designation was an evidence-based quality improvement initiative, which involved extensive staff education. All labor and delivery, mother-baby nursing staff, obstetricians, pediatricians and family medicine physicians were offered special training in how to best support mothers who wish to breastfeed their baby. Summa Health System’s Dr. Edward M. Ferris, vice chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, noted that when the hospital initiated the process for Baby-Friendly status in 2012, Summa Akron City’s breastfeeding rate for new moms was 74 percent. Today, that number is at 81 percent and rising.

“We are extremely proud to be recognized as the area’s first and only Baby-Friendly hospital,” said Dr. Ferris. “The effort put forth by our team over the past three years to achieve this honor was extraordinary. The pediatricians and post-partum nurses, in particular, were critical to our success. And, of course, we thank all the moms who understand that breastfeeding at birth — and as the baby grows — is vitally important for the health of their child.”

Learn more about this important designation by visiting summahealth.org/babyfriendly.

Proud to be “Baby-Friendly®”

As the first hospital in the Akron-Canton area and one of just nine throughout the state of Ohio that holds Baby-Friendly® status, Summa Akron City Hospital delivers on its pledge to support a healthy beginning for mothers and babies by providing the best possible breastfeeding support for new moms and their infants.

Summa Akron City’s Maternity Services earned the prestigious Baby-Friendly designation earlier this month from Baby-Friendly USA, this country’s authority for the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, a global program sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Baby-Friendly designated hospitals help provide the extra education and support new moms need to successfully breastfeed their babies. The five-year designation comes after a rigorous review of a specific set of evidence-based criteria that are proven to improve breastfeeding success.

Researchers have learned that breastfeeding provides substantial health benefits for baby, including:
• Less colic and digestive upsets
• Babies who are breast fed tend to have higher IQs
• An increased ability to fight infections
• Reduced chance of developing digestive problems, asthma, diabetes, obesity and some childhood cancers
• Reduced risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

Breastfeeding also has significant benefits for mothers, too, including:
• More rapid loss of weight gained during pregnancy
• The uterus returns to normal size quicker in breastfeeding mothers
• Reduced risk for developing post partum depression (baby blues)
• Increased bonding with baby is good for both mom and baby
• Reduced stress and more time to spend with baby (no bottle preparation)
• Reduced risk of developing breast cancer, ovarian cancer and osteoporosis (bone loss/brittle bones)
• Breastfeeding costs less and women who participate in the WIC program and decide to breastfeed are eligible for more food options
It’s no secret that a growing number of Americans are overweight, obese or morbidly obese. In fact, obesity currently affects about one-third of adults in the U.S. and more than half of all American adults are overweight. In addition, obesity is now ranked as the second-highest cause of preventable deaths in the country with approximately 300,000 people dying each year from obesity-related illnesses such as Type 2 Diabetes, high blood pressure and sleep apnea.

The rate at which obesity has worsened over the past 20 years is alarming, and there is now a growing amount of national attention focused on the problem. In 2012, the American Medical Association finally declared obesity to be a chronic disease, having it join the ranks of some well-known heavy hitters such as heart disease, diabetes and asthma.

So, why don’t people just lose the weight?

Anyone that has tried to lose weight, and keep it off, knows what a struggle it is to get the results you want. There are countless fad diets, exercise equipment and pills and powders that attest to that. While it is appealing to think of taking a pill to miraculously and effortlessly melt away the pounds, the reality is that there are no medications currently approved which can come close to the results achieved through making permanent changes in lifestyle over time.

Because obesity is complicated, the solution is complex too. The Bariatric Care Center at Summa Health System has been helping people lose weight since 2004. Since its inception, it has promoted a physician-driven, team-based approach to weight loss.

The Bariatric Care Center offers a surgical and a non-surgical option for weight loss. Depending upon the degree of your obesity and the level of knowledge you have regarding the options for addressing it, we can help you decide which of our programs best fits your needs. Our program’s comprehensive approach to weight loss management is based upon scientific research about weight loss and years of experience gained from working with patients just like you.

We can help you reach your weight loss goals by teaching you how to make better choices about eating and exercise, and by working with you to address those underlying behaviors which are preventing you from reaching your goals. It takes a dedicated team to manage the weight loss process for you, so you have a team of professionals working with you every step of the way, including a physician and/or surgeon, psychologist, dietitian, exercise specialist and a multitude of support staff to answer questions and assist you with scheduling.

We know it isn’t easy. Because weight gain happens over time, weight loss takes time as well. And it is a lifetime commitment. Many people cycle through weight loss and regain multiple times throughout their life. Because most patients end up gaining more with each cycle of regain, both programs include lifetime follow up.

Choosing to lose weight is a life-changing decision which affects not only you, but also your family, job and future. If you are interested in learning more about Summa’s weight loss options, call (330) 375-6590 or visit us online at summahealth.org/weightloss.
New Treatment Allows AFib Patients to Avoid Taking Blood Thinners

There is a new option to reduce the risk of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF or AFib) who wish to avoid taking warfarin or other anticoagulants. The implantation of a left atrial appendage closure (LAAC) device offers an alternative for AFib patients who rely on blood thinning medications such as warfarin (Coumadin) to reduce their risk of stroke. Summa Health electrophysiologists began implanting a type of LAAC device called the WATCHMAN™ (pictured above), manufactured by Boston Scientific, in patients on June 10.

Summa Health is one of the few hospitals in the U.S. (and only the second in Ohio) to offer patients this breakthrough alternative to a lifetime regimen of blood thinners.

The left atrial appendage (LAA) is a small pouch located on the top of the heart. It has been identified as the source of the majority of stroke-causing blood clots in patients with AFib. Patients at risk for stroke are typically treated with anticoagulants or other anticoagulants.

Reducing the risk of stroke, patients may be able to safely stop taking anticoagulant medications.

Bruce Smyth, 73, of Akron, was one of the first patients to have the WATCHMAN device implanted. He didn’t hesitate to try the new device if it meant he could discontinue his anticoagulant medication.

“Coumadin is a real pain in the neck,” Smyth said. “It WATCHMAN is a godsend.”

Although it will be a few weeks before Smyth learns if he can stop taking his medication, he is optimistic.

“It all went well. It was a good experience,” he said. “I was extremely happy with the care I received at Summa. I feel great.”

The LAAC device implantation procedure is performed under general anesthesia. The doctor guides the implant into the heart through a flexible tube (catheter) inserted through a vein in the upper leg (groin) and into the left side of the heart. Once in place, the doctor deploys the implant to leave it permanently in the heart.

The procedure does not require open heart surgery. Patients stay in the hospital overnight and recovery usually takes about 24 hours. Six weeks after implantation, an ultrasound of the heart is performed to evaluate whether the patient may safely discontinue warfarin. Typically, 95 percent of patients are able to stop taking warfarin.

Call (800) 237-8662 to make an appointment with a Summa physician.


A better way to manage heart failure

The CardioMEMS™ System, the nation’s first and only FDA-approved heart failure monitor proven to significantly reduce hospital readmissions and improve quality of life for many heart failure patients, is now available at Summa Health.

CardioMEMS is a tiny, wireless monitoring sensor that is implanted in the pulmonary artery (PA) during a nonsurgical procedure to directly measure PA pressure. Increased PA pressures appear before weight and blood pressure changes, which are often used as indirect measures of worsening heart failure. The new system allows patients to transmit daily sensor readings from home to their Summa healthcare providers, which allows doctors to proactively manage patients’ heart failure and also reduce the likelihood of hospitalization. Summa Health began implanting the sensor in patients in June.

“The CardioMEMS technology is safe, reliable and clinically proven to reduce heart failure admissions,” said Dr. Joseph Redle, a Summa Health heart specialist.

“Summa is the first hospital in this region to offer such an innovative option for those with heart failure. This can truly improve their quality of life.”

Heart failure occurs when the heart is unable to pump enough blood to meet the body’s needs. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 5.1 million Americans have heart failure, with 670,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Patients with heart failure are frequently hospitalized, have a reduced quality of life and face a higher risk of death.

The CardioMEMS sensor is designed to last the lifetime of the patient and does not require batteries. Once implanted via a minimally invasive procedure, the wireless sensor sends pressure readings to an external patient electronic system. There is no pain or sensation for the patient during the readings. The CardioMEMS System allows patients to transmit critical information about their heart failure status to Summa clinicians on a regular basis, without the need for additional clinic or hospital visits. This provides healthcare providers with the ability to detect worsening heart failure sooner and adjust treatment to reduce the likelihood that the patient will need to be hospitalized.

Millions of Americans suffer from heart failure. Even with patients self-monitoring their body weight and blood pressure, 25 percent of heart failure patients are readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of a hospital admission, and half of heart failure patients are readmitted within six months. According to the American Heart Association, the estimated direct and indirect cost of heart failure in the U.S. for 2012 was $31 billion and that number is expected to more than double by 2030. The CardioMEMS HF System, from global medical device manufacturer St. Jude Medical, is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for commercial use in the U.S.
Birthplace of MVPs – or is that MVBs?

Summa Health has always known how special babies are; all 4,000-plus born at its hospitals every year. But two of them flooded the worldwide media in June, as they battled each other in the 2015 NBA Finals.

In a sure stroke of coincidence, both Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James, a four-time league MVP, and Golden State Warriors’ point guard Stephen Curry, this year’s league MVP, were born at Akron City Hospital, less than four years apart. Statisticians are saying the odds of two MVPs facing each other in the NBA Finals, having both been born at the same hospital, are literally impossible to calculate.

And the media ate it up.

The city of Akron, the entire region, and actually, all parts of the world were gripped with Cavs fever and this story. Local, national and international media descended upon the hospital in droves to talk with physicians, nursing staff, labor and delivery department employees, as well as new moms and dads.

Although we have always known all of our babies have unlimited potential, odds are babies born at Summa Akron City Hospital, more than any other hospital in possibly the nation, could attain NBA MVP status.

To learn more about maternity services at Summa or to schedule your most valuable maternity tour, call (800) 237-8662 or visit summahealth.org/maternity.
Summa Health Adds
New Services in Wadsworth

Summa Health offers a wide variety of outpatient services in the Wadsworth-Rittman area. In addition, we are pleased to announce the addition of new physicians, programs and services in the areas of:

- Primary care
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Sports medicine
- Behavioral health

These new providers are accepting new patients at the following Wadsworth locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVIDER</th>
<th>SPECIALTY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence J. Spojaric, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Summa Physicians Inc. 251 Leatherman Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Health Center</td>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynecology</td>
<td>Summa Health Center at Wadsworth-Rittman 195 Wadsworth Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Crawford, M.D.</td>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>Summa Physicians Inc. 621 School Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph P. Burick, D.O.</td>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>Summa Health Center at Wadsworth-Rittman 195 Wadsworth Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Lishneviski, M.D.</td>
<td>Sports Medicine</td>
<td>Summa Health Center at Wadsworth-Rittman 195 Wadsworth Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina M. Peters, D.O.</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>Summa Health Center at Wadsworth-Rittman 195 Wadsworth Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer A. Jackson-Wohl, D.O.</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>Summa Health Center at Wadsworth-Rittman 195 Wadsworth Road</td>
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Call (800) 237-8662 to schedule an appointment with a Summa physician.