The Health Challenge

Imagine walking your dog on a cold morning and feeling a strange sensation in your chest. Many would shake it off thinking maybe you’re out of shape and the cold weather is just putting a harder strain on your heart. For John Ambrosino, M.D., this was his experience back in April of 2016 and knew he needed to discuss it immediately with his primary care physician.

A vascular surgeon on staff at Sharon Regional and part of Steward Medical Group, Dr. Ambrosino consulted with his physician (Howard Slemons, D.O.) and it was agreed that testing was to be ordered to determine if there were any abnormalities occurring with his heart. The results of the test were conclusive. There was a major blockage somewhere around his heart and action needed to be taken quickly. “I guess you can say that I failed the test miserably.” Ambrosino stated.

The Treatment

The cardiac catheterization showed blockage in his left main coronary artery.

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Background

Name – John Ambrosino, M.D. | Age – 67
Occupation – Vascular Surgeon
This artery is known as the widow maker because once it gets blocked, it causes a massive heart attack that often leads to sudden death.

John’s surgeon, together with the Cardiology team at Sharon Regional, agreed that the best treatment option was to perform bypass surgery. Bypass surgery is when the flow of blood is diverted around the blockage and offers fewer risks for complications versus a stent. Stents are commonly utilized as temporary solutions because they can often clog or collapse over time.

The Result

Over a year later, John still looks back at his decision to come to Sharon Regional without any regrets. He was able to make outstanding progress and return back to work earlier than planned. “If I hadn’t had the surgery, I wouldn’t be here today,” stated John. Today he is able to work the long hours as a full-time Vascular Surgeon, spends time with his wife, visits with daughter, Sarah, who lives in D.C., and walks his dog every morning. When asked if there was anything else he wanted the community to know, he stated, “I don’t want people to think I chose Sharon Regional because I work there, but because I personally had observed the quality of care to be outstanding and I knew I could trust the team with my life.”

Accredited Chest Pain Center

An Accredited Chest Pain Center’s evidence-based, protocol-driven and systematic approach to cardiac patient care allows clinicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack. Chest pain centers better monitor patients when it is not clear whether or not a patient is having a coronary event. Such monitoring ensures patients are neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

To learn more about the Chest Pain Center at Sharon Regional Medical Center, visit sharonregionalmedical.org/heartcenter

About Sharon Regional Medical Center

Sharon Regional Medical Center is your community healthcare provider, a 220 acute care bed hospital with 19 satellite centers throughout the region. As a Joint Commission accredited hospital, Sharon Regional Medical Center proudly offers specialized services including the Heart and Vascular Institute, emergency heart attack/stroke treatment, cancer care, orthopedics/sports medicine, minimally invasive surgery, bariatric surgery, emergency care, a women’s center, and a breast care center.

For more information visit www.sharonregionalmedical.org.

About Steward Health Care

Steward Health Care is a fully integrated national health care services organization committed to providing the highest quality of care in the communities where our patients live. Steward owns and operates 18 community hospitals across four states, serves over 800 communities, and has more than 23,000 employees. The Steward network includes more than 25 urgent care centers, 42 preferred skilled nursing facilities, substantial behavioral health offerings, and more than 3,700 beds under management.

Additional information is available at www.steward.org.