



## EMMC assists in stenting study

Research is continuing to thrive here at EMMC. Each day we discover new and exciting opportunities to become involved in clinical and grant sponsored investigations. Even the busiest of departments are finding that research is a manageable task. It is all part of the changing culture at EMMC toward one that's more research-oriented, seeking evidence-based ways to improve patient care.

**Larry Flanagan, MD**, the Vascular Surgery Section Head at EMMC, has a full patient-load. Despite this, he is taking part in a study called **Carotid RX ACCULINK/RX ACCUNET Post-Approval Trial to Uncover Unanticipated or Rare Events (CAPTURE 2)**. This multi-center study, sponsored by Abbott Laboratories, is exploring the safety of angioplasty, which involves the use of stent devices to treat carotid atherosclerosis in community settings. So far EMMC has successfully enrolled 42 subjects in the study.

Carotid stenting is viewed by many patients and physicians as a significant improvement over carotid endarterectomy. This is not always true, according to Dr. Flanagan. Carotid stenting provides some advantages to select patients, but carotid endarterectomy remains the safest procedure for the majority of patients. When a patient is in need of such procedures, vascular surgeons consider the best option for that particular patient. The process of selecting the appropriate procedure for each patient is one of the foci of the CAPTURE 2 study.

This research also has a tremendous community-wide benefit. The study expands the number of patients eligible for Medicare reimbursement for the procedure who may not have been eligible under the general Medicare guidelines. **Carrie Arsenault, RHIT, CPC**, who assists Dr. Flanagan with the study, has enjoyed being able to expand services to even more patients. "It's been nice to be able to offer the procedure to Medicare patients. The patients' reactions have been positive." Quality Improvement Coordinator **Melissa Peasley**, whose efforts have been integral in all phases of the study, agrees. "Being involved in cutting edge research that also helps with patient care has been a terrific experience."

The results of the study, which Dr. Flanagan hopes to have a hand in publishing, may play an important role in shaping the future of patient care at EMMC and across the nation.