

Heart attack in the Valley



Last year Scottsdale Healthcare's Dr. David Rizik performed Arizona's first heart procedure using infrared and fiber-optic technology to detect artery blockages.

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David Rizik, M.D.

TITLE: Medical director of invasive cardiology

AFFILIATION: Scottsdale Healthcare

WEB: www.shc.org

Last year, Dr. David Rizik performed Arizona's first heart procedure using infrared and fiber-optic technology to detect artery blockages.

Scottsdale Healthcare, where Rizik is a cardiologist, was one of the first in the U.S. to offer the LipiScan Coronary Imaging System, which uses an infrared catheter to identify fatty plaque in the arteries. This plaque can't be detected by traditional tests, such as treadmill exams and coronary angiograms.

Rizik participated in the clinical trials before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the treatment for use in the U.S.

"It looks at the vessel irrespective of the severity of blockage, and it indicates what the fat or lipid burden in the blood vessel is," he said. "The higher the lipid content, we believe, means a higher predisposition going on to a heart attack."

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Thomas Mattioni, M.D.

TITLE: Medical director of electrophysiology

AFFILIATION: Scottsdale Healthcare Heart Rhythm Center

WEB: www.shc.org

Scottsdale Healthcare is the only Arizona hospital system to be selected to test a "shock box" for patients at high risk of cardiac arrest.

Dr. Thomas Mattioni, medical director of electrophysiology at Scottsdale Healthcare Heart Rhythm Center, is the principal local investigator for the study.

The device, formally called a subcutaneous implantable cardioverter defibrillator, is used to shock faulty hearts back into rhythm. It is different from a traditional defi-



brillator because it is implanted under the skin, near the heart. Other defibrillators deliver a shock through a wire that goes through a vein near the shoulder to get to the heart.

"That wire is the weak link, because if a wire frays or breaks down or has any abnormality due to wear and tear, the defibrillator is unable to deliver a shock when it's needed," Mattioni said.

Mattioni said he is looking forward to the first test patient in Arizona.

"We haven't had an appropriate patient yet," he said. "We are still waiting."