



August 11, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michaela O. Donnelly, Media Relations Manager
(860) 545-4658
mdonnelly@harthosp.org

Hartford Hospital Recruiting Patients with Irregular Heartbeat to Participate in Research Study

(Hartford, Conn.) – Hartford Hospital is recruiting patients who have a common heart arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat, called atrial fibrillation (AF), to participate in a research study to determine whether a catheter-based surgical technique - known as catheter ablation- is more effective than state-of-the-art drug therapy in managing AF symptoms and reducing mortality. Hartford Hospital is one of only two medical centers in New England chosen by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a research center for this study, referred to as the CABANA Trial.

Patients will be randomly selected for either ablation or drug therapy, neither of which is experimental, and will receive follow-up care every six months for two years. Follow-up will be similar to routine follow-up after drug or ablation treatment, with the addition of a few tests that will be paid for by the study.

“This study will provide patients with state-of-the-art AF management and excellent follow-up,” said Christopher A. Clyne, M.D., F.H.R.S./F.A.C.C., principal investigator of the study and Director of Interventional Electrophysiology at Hartford Hospital.

CABANA is an international randomized study involving 70 U.S. centers and 70 outside the U.S. that have vast experience and excellence in atrial fibrillation management, including ablation.

“Despite early encouraging results from smaller studies, we really don’t know whether front-line AF ablation may improve outcomes, including survival,” said Dr. Clyne. “This study will allow the participating patients to be active participants in answering that question, which will be important to them and to the other 3 million Americans with AF.”

Participants in the study must be more than 18 years old, have AF that is serious enough to warrant active therapy, and be eligible for both catheter ablation and anti-arrhythmia drugs.

Patients interested in participating in the study or obtaining further information should call 860-545-1506.

About Hartford Hospital

Hartford Hospital is an 867-bed regional referral center that provides high-quality care in all clinical disciplines. Among its divisions is The Institute of Living, a 114-bed mental health facility with a national and international reputation of excellence. Jefferson House, a 104-bed long-term care facility, is also a special division of Hartford Hospital. The Hospital major centers of clinical excellence include cardiology, oncology, emergency services and trauma, mental health, women’s health, orthopedics, bloodless surgery and advanced organ transplantation. Hartford Hospital owns and operates the state’s only air ambulance system, LIFE STAR. Visit Hartford Hospital online at www.hartfordhospital.com.

###