INSTITUT DE CARDIOLOGIE DE MONTRÉAL

50 ANS d'histoires de cœur

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

THE MONTREAL HEART INSTITUTE BECOMES THE FIRST IN NORTH AMERICA TO USE AN ARTICULATED PROSTHETIC DEVICE TO PERFORM A PATENT FORAMEN OVAL CLOSURE

This prosthetic device is particular in that it can adapt to the anatomy of the patient's heart, whereas before, the heart adapted to the prosthesis

MONTREAL, June 15, 2004 – Dr. Reda Ibrahim, cardiologist specialist in hemodynamic at the Montreal Heart Institute (MHI) has performed a patent foramen oval closure, using an articulated prosthetic device that has never before been used in North America. The procedure was performed at the MHI on June 10, 2004, on a patient in her forties. It was also projected simultaneously onto giant screens in a conference room of the Centre Mont-Royal de Montréal, where it was viewed by some 300 Canadian and international experts in interventional cardiology, among them cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and interventional radiologists who were taking part in the MHI's 13th course in interventional cardiology.

The procedure performed by Dr. Ibrahim consisted of closing the foramen oval of a patient using an innovative prosthetic device in the form of a double umbrella introduced percutaneously. This approach in itself is not new; it is even common practice and altogether perfected. What is new, however, is that for the first time in North America, a cardiologist interventional has implanted a prosthetic device that adapts to the anatomy of the patient's heart, whereas before, the heart adapted to the prosthesis.

The prosthesis used is called *Intrasept* and is made by Cardia, a company in Minnesota (U.S.). It was first tested in Europe where it has already been approved by the health care regulatory agencies. The clinical trials were conducted mainly in Germany.

Patent foramen oval is an opening in the septum separating the right atrium from the left; a valve of sorts, it is open at the fetal stage of development, but closes at birth in three-quarters of newborns. When it remains open, this foramen oval may lead to cardio-vascular accidents by letting through small clots of blood that would otherwise disappear in the lungs.

"This new prosthetic device is better than others made thus far for this type of procedure," says Dr. Reda Ibrahim. "It is the culmination of four generations of prosthetic devices perfected in recent years by this Minnesota manufacturer. Being articulated, it can adapt to the patient's heart, making it much less stressful for the patient. This particular characteristic represents a very significant development in prostheses of this kind."

The Montreal Heart Institute, which this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding, is an ultra-specialized hospital centre dedicated to care, research, teaching, prevention, and the assessment of new technologies in cardiology; it is affiliated with the Université de Montréal. Some 100 researchers work at the Institute, and it has 153 beds.

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