



Thursday, February 12, 2015

## **MMC Part of Breakthrough Research on Stroke Treatment**

*Largest global study results reported at International Stroke Congress*

PORTLAND, Maine — Maine Medical Center’s Neuroscience Institute was part of the largest global study to examine the use of stent mechanical thrombectomy during the early stages of an acute ischemic stroke. MMC was one of 40 participating sites in the U.S. and 20 overseas.

“I am proud to be part of this seminal global research, bringing world class care to patients with stroke in Maine. Our patients who have participated in the research have benefited from this breakthrough technology and we are looking forward to helping others in the future,” said Robert Ecker, M.D., MMC’s Neuroscience Medical Director. According to the American Heart Association, acute ischemic stroke is the leading cause of disability and the fourth most common cause of death in the U.S.

MMC participated in one of three key randomized studies (SWIFT PRIME), which assessed the use of the Solitaire device in addition to IV-TPA vs. IV-TPA treatment alone. The worldwide study enrolled 196 patients (four at MMC) and showed a statistically significant improvement in 90 day functional outcome for patients receiving Solitaire stent thrombectomy vs. TPA alone.

### **About Maine Medical Center**

Maine Medical Center (MMC), recognized as the number-one ranked hospital in Maine by *U.S. News and World Report for 2014-2015*, is a complete health care resource for the people of Greater Portland and the entire state, as well as northern New England. Incorporated in 1864, MMC is the state’s largest medical center, licensed for 637 beds and employing nearly 6,500 people. MMC’s unique role as both a community hospital and a referral center requires an unparalleled depth and breadth of services, including an active educational program and a world-class biomedical research center. As a nonprofit institution, Maine Medical Center provides nearly 23 percent of all the charity care delivered in Maine. MMC is a member of the MaineHealth system, a growing family of health care services in northern New England. For more information, visit [www.mmc.org](http://www.mmc.org).

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