



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

Contact: Shannon Hitchcock  
509.575.5282 (office)  
shannon.hitchcock@yakimaregional.com

**YAKIMA REGIONAL MEDICAL & CARDIAC CENTER PERFORMS FIRST  
HIS-BUNDLE PACEMAKER IMPLANT IN THE STATE**

YAKIMA, WA (September 7, 2016 )— Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center (YRMCC) is the first facility in Washington State to perform a HIS-Bundle pacemaker (HBP) implant. The HBP device is much the same as other pacemakers. What is different is the procedure and placement of electrodes into the HIS-bundle of heart muscle fibers that control heartbeat.

Traditionally, pacemakers are inserted into the heart muscle of the right ventricle. With the His-bundle procedure, heartbeat is regulated in a way similar to the body's natural function, leading to fewer side effects than the traditional procedure.

The first HIS-bundle implant at YRMCC was done by Dr. James Kneller, an Electrophysiology Cardiologist in July of this year. Dr. Kneller specializes in treating heart rhythm disorders.

The procedure takes approximately 40 minutes and the patient is ready to leave the hospital the next day.

“Availability of this advanced procedure is excellent news for Yakima as we know our patients want their care locally,” says Dave Krueger, MD, Medical Director for Yakima Heart Center.

As the number of Americans needing pacemakers for heart arrhythmia increases, so does the sophistication of the technology. Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center is investing in an advanced electrophysiology laboratory and program to support our delivery of more services here in the community.



“We want to do whatever we can to keep patients from having to travel to Seattle, Portland or Spokane for treatment,” says Bryan Braegger, CEO of Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center. “With the success of the HIS-bundle implant now they don’t have to.”

Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center has a history of leading the way in the area of cardiac care. Thirty years ago, almost to the date of the HIS-bundle implant, the facility then known as St. Elizabeth’s Hospital was the first hospital in Washington State to implant a rate responsive pacemaker that can increase and decrease beats per minutes based on the person’s activity level.

###

**About Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center:** Yakima Regional, a 214-bed facility located in Central Washington, provides a full complement of medical services including the valley’s only open-heart surgery, advanced imaging, comprehensive robotics, state-of-the-art neurosurgery, and CARF accredited inpatient rehabilitation ranked in the Top 10 percent of the nation. Staffed by approximately 750 full and part-time employees, the hospital offers a wide array of inpatient and outpatient services. The hospital provides one of only two single stay cardiac units in the State of Washington. Yakima Regional is a Level I Cardiac and Level II Stroke center, with a Level III trauma designation, and a commitment to continuous reinvestment in state-of-the-art technology.

For more information, visit [www.yakimaregional.com](http://www.yakimaregional.com)

Dr. Kneller is an independent member of the medical staff at Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center.