

St. David's Georgetown Hospital is First in Texas To Offer New Treatment for Severe Asthma Patients

St. David's Georgetown Hospital is the first hospital in Texas to offer bronchial thermoplasty—a new procedure for the treatment of severe persistent asthma.

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, more than 20 million Americans have asthma, and managing unstable asthma consumes more than \$18 billion of healthcare resources each year. The Alair® Bronchial Thermoplasty System has been shown to help patients with severe asthma gain substantially better control over the disease.

“We are thrilled to offer this specialized asthma treatment to not only Central Texans, but residents in the Southwest United States,” Dominic de Keratry, M.D., medical director for respiratory services at St. David's Georgetown Hospital, said. “The long-term result from this treatment is that people who suffer from recurrent asthma attacks have less attacks, as well as a reduced requirement for their rescue inhalers, reduced lost work or school time, and they gain greater productivity.”

Dr. de Keratry, along with Dr. Esther Fields, both interventional pulmonologists who joined St. David's Georgetown Hospital in the fall of 2009, began treating qualified patients with the Alair® Bronchial Thermoplasty System in September. Patients 18 years and older whose asthma is not well controlled with inhaled corticosteroids and long-acting beta agonists, the current standard-of-care treatments, are eligible for bronchial thermoplasty.

“This procedure has completely transformed my life,” Nicole Acosta, an asthma patient treated at St. David's Georgetown Hospital, said. “I don't wake up in the middle of the night with trouble breathing, and I don't have to use my nebulizer treatment as much as I used to before I leave the house. I understand it's not a cure-all, but it has greatly improved my quality of life.”

The Alair® Bronchial Thermoplasty System was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Asthma Intervention Research 2 (AIR2) Trial evaluated the safety and effectiveness of the Alair® Bronchial Thermoplasty System. The data from that study was submitted to the FDA and was the basis for the agency's approval of the first-of-its-kind device for the treatment of asthma. The AIR2 data was also published in the January 15, 2010 issue of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. The trial demonstrated that treatment with the Alair® System resulted in improved quality of life for individuals with asthma, as well as considerable reductions in asthma attacks, ER visits, hospitalizations, and days lost from work, school or other daily activities due to asthma.

For more information on bronchial thermoplasty, visit www.BTforAsthma.com.