

2021-10-15

Clínica Las Américas Auna successfully implants the world's smallest wireless pacemaker

- It is the first device of this type to be implanted in Colombia
- Miniaturized heart device provides patients with the most advanced pacemaker technology available.
- For most patients, the design of this small pacemaker and its minimally invasive procedure means less chance of infection and fewer post-implant physical activity restrictions.

Medellín, Colombia - October 15, 2021. Clínica Las Américas Auna announced today that it is the first hospital in Colombia to offer the smallest pacemaker in the world for patients with bradycardia. The transcatheter pacemaker system is a new type of heart device, providing patients with the most advanced pacing technology at one-tenth the size of a traditional pacemaker. The first procedure was performed by the electrophysiology medical team led in this case by Dr. Jorge Velásquez yesterday, October 14.

According to Dr. Jorge Velásquez, cardiologist and electrophysiologist at Clínica Las Américas Auna, "The first patient in Colombia to have this device had episodes of intermittent atrial-ventricular blockade where the pacemaker is a very good alternative, since in the past he had two complications associated with the implantation of traditional pacemakers, one of the main advantages of the device being the reduction of the risk of infections, reduction of risks associated with the electrodes and the reduction or absence of complications related to the

implant such as pneumothorax or infection related to the pacemaker pocket … ".

Bradycardia is a condition characterized by a slow or irregular heartbeat, usually less than 60 beats per minute. At this rate, it can be a serious problem because the heart does not pump enough blood to carry oxygen throughout the body during normal activities or while exercising, causing dizziness, fatigue, shortness of breath, or fainting. Pacemakers are the most common way to treat bradycardia to help restore normal heart rhythm and relieve symptoms by sending electrical impulses to the heart to increase the heart rate.

Comparable in size to a large vitamin, Clinica Las Américas Auna doctors can now offer their patients this transcatheter pacemaker, developed by a global medical device company, which, unlike traditional pacemakers, does not require cardiac leads (leads) or a surgical "pocket" under the skin to deliver stimulation therapy to the heart. Instead, the device is small enough to be implanted directly into the heart using a catheter through the vein in the leg, providing a safe alternative to conventional pacemakers without the complications associated with leads, all while not creating scars on the skin. This pacemaker is also designed to automatically adjust pacing therapy based on the patient's activity levels.

For patients who need more than one heart device, the pacemaker was designed with a unique feature that allows it to be permanently turned off so that it can remain in the body and a new device can be implanted without risk of electrical interaction. In addition, its technology allows the doctor to monitor the patient by sending data remotely through a mobile application.