

GRADY BRINGS REBOA TO GA

In November 2016, Grady trauma surgeons in the Marcus Trauma Center (MTC) performed their first Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta (REBOA) on a patient who suffered traumatic injuries from a motorcycle accident. It was the first time the procedure was performed in the state of Georgia.

It has been Trauma Research Director Dr. Bryan Morse's long-time ambition to bring this type of modern trauma technology and technique to Grady.



Trauma Research Director Dr. Bryan Morse (left) demonstrates technical aspects of REBOA during the premiere GREAT class.

"As the only nationally verified Level 1 trauma center in Metro Atlanta, we must be leaders in research and continually pursue innovative ways to treat our patients," Morse said.

In addition to being the first in the state to use this technique, Grady was also the first hospital in Georgia to design an endovascular surgical skills course to teach other surgeons across the country.

Called Grady Rescue and Endovascular Approaches to Trauma (GREAT), the six-hour course comprises didactic material and simulation training using the latest catheter technology to demonstrate technical aspects of the procedure on mannequins and cadavers.

"We conducted the first GREAT course in December last year with eight Emory and Morehouse schools of medicine fellows, who are now trained to perform the procedure at Grady," Morse said. "We built this course from the ground up, and as a teaching hospital, it's exciting to see how far it will go."

Dr. Jonathan Nguyen, the course's associate director and trauma surgeon at Grady, said GREAT's next session is scheduled for April, and has potential to attract physicians from other countries.

"We're one of the busiest trauma centers in the country, we have some of the smartest and most talented trauma surgeons here, so if anyone is going to lead in figuring out REBOA's niche and teaching others, it's going to be Grady," Nguyen said.

Grady and Research

Part of figuring out more about REBOA's utility comes from Grady's participation in a multi-center trial that is researching aortic vascular occlusion.

Chief of Surgery Dr. Peter Rhee said this is just one of over 40 research projects the Marcus Trauma Center is conducting or involved in.

"It's one of the fundamental things that will make Grady a leading institution nationally and internationally. It's how we attract the best surgeons and develop the best training program," Rhee said.

What is REBOA?

Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta is a minimally invasive technique used on eligible trauma patients that involves placing a catheter into the femoral artery, maneuvering it to the aorta, and inflating a balloon at its tip to stop bleeding. It is a temporary procedure that allows more time for a severely injured patient to get to an operating room.