

Case Study: Primary Angioplasty

A 56-year-old male with no significant medical history presented to the CMC Emergency Department with chest pain. Within 5 minutes of his arrival, an EKG was obtained that demonstrated changes consistent with an acute inferior wall ST segment elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction.

The patient was taken to the catheterization laboratory where a critical lesion in the mid right coronary artery was detected and subsequently successfully stented.

The door-to-balloon time in this case, performed off hours, was 56 minutes.



DAVID J. GOLDBERG
MD, FACC

Physician Comments

Although most physicians in the U.S. administer thrombolytic therapy for treatment of acute STEMI, primary angioplasty has emerged as the preferred treatment in recent years. When a patient presents to Catholic Medical Center with chest pain, the ER staff performs an electrocardiogram immediately to help make the diagnosis as rapidly as possible. A system established with ambulance personnel also allows an EKG to be faxed to the ER from the field. Based on this information, the ER physician can

quickly activate PACT, the primary angioplasty call team, comprised of the interventional cardiologist and catheterization lab staff, so the patient's artery can be opened soon after arrival at the hospital.

“The nationally recognized benchmark for ‘door to balloon time’ for percutaneous revascularization is 90 minutes, a benchmark that our staff has met 100 percent of the time in recent months.”

David J. Goldberg, MD, FACC

The nationally recognized benchmark for “door to balloon time” for percutaneous revascularization is 90 minutes, a benchmark that our staff has met 100 percent of the time in recent months. With primary angioplasty available 24/7 at CMC, and a highly skilled team of emergency department, catheterization lab, CIU and ICU staff working closely together, we are able to provide primary angioplasty effectively for our patients who present with STEMI.

For more information on primary angioplasty, contact Dr. Goldberg at 603.669.0413. 📞

