

Lasers help extract pacemaker leads safer

New procedure in Southwest Florida

BY MICHELLE L. START
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Patients with extensive scarring around defective pacemaker leads can now stay in Fort Myers to have them repaired.

Three weeks ago, Florida Heart Associates Dr. James Sensecqua began performing laser extractions on the leads — a flexible wire that connects the pacemaker to the heart muscle. The leads need to be replaced when a recall has been issued, or after time has passed because the wires break down or deteriorate. Built-up scar tissue can also block the lead, which would also result in it needing to be removed and replaced.

“We have extracted leads for years, but we just started to do it with the laser,” he said. “The laser passes over the lead and it comes out easily. It takes less time and it is safer.”

Previously, doctors were inserting a catheter in the groin to get to the leads, then removing them. If there were complications and the muscle was torn during the procedure, patients had to be rushed in for open heart surgery.

When there was scarring around the heart muscle where the leads were placed, cases were referred to Fort Lauderdale.

Those cases can now be addressed locally.

Ryan Youngblood, registered cardiovascular technician at Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center, said a laser catheter is inserted over the leads that will be



removed.

“It uses a laser type catheter to remove the lead from the tissue inside of the heart. The device goes right over the lead. It burns scar tissue as you go down to the lead. The puncture is made in the axillary or subclavian vein,” he said. “The first procedure took 35 minutes.”

There are lasers at both Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center, where Sensecqua performed the first removal, and also at HealthPark Regional Medical Center. The lasers are used for other procedures, as well.

Sensecqua went to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio to learn how to remove the leads with a laser and finished the course in November.

He has two patients undergoing the procedure this week.

Patients are given anesthesia and spend the night at the hospital, where doctors monitor them. ■

A beautiful smile makes a memory that lasts forever.

The Aesthetic Dental Centre
13650 Metropolis Avenue
Suite 108
Fort Myers, FL 33912
239-768-5600

ROBERT E. HENDRY II
DMD, PA

©2007 Porsche Cars North America, Inc. Porsche recommends seat belt usage and observance of all traffic laws at all times.



Eventually it all boils down to: Do I want a car, or do I want a Porsche?

The decision couldn't be more clear-cut. Legendary Porsche handling. A potent, new direct fuel injection engine that uses less fuel. And it's all tightly wrapped in a newly redefined, more muscular stance. Now do you want a Cayenne, or did you just want a car? Porsche Cayenne. There is no substitute.

The new 2008 Cayenne. Starting at \$46,400.

Premier
Porsche Dealer

Porsche of Naples

www.porscheofnaples.com
800 Tamiami Trail North
Naples, Florida 34102
Toll Free: 888-552-3897



PORSCHE

Pre-Owned Inventory

Porsche Certified Pre-Owned

'02 Boxster S, Arctic Silver/Grey Leather, 6 Spd, Options, 24,964 Miles, VIN 661071
'04 911 Carrera 4S, Black/Black Leather, Tiptronic, 23,947 Miles, VIN 622177
'05 Cayenne S, Titanium/Black Leather, 19" Wheels, 31,627 Miles, VIN A66070
'05 Cayenne Turbo, Arctic Silver/Palm Leather, Options, 32,066 Miles, VIN A92362
'05 Cayenne S, Black/Havana Leather, Navigation, Only 9,025 Miles, VIN A63572
'06 Cayenne Turbo S, Silver/Black Leather, Options, 11,325 Miles, VIN A92238

'06 Boxster, Black/Black Leather, Tiptronic, Only 11,288 Miles, VIN 711210
'06 911 Carrera Cabriolet, Arctic Silver/Black Leather, 6 Spd, 17,413 Miles, VIN 6S755343
'04 911 Turbo Cabriolet, Seal Grey/Black Leather, Tiptronic, 16,346 Miles, VIN 675172
'01 911 Carrera Cabriolet, Guards Red/Sand Leather, 6 spd, 32,718 Miles, VIN 654425
'05 911 Carrera S Cabriolet, Black/Sand, 6 Spd, Navigation, 29,765 Miles, VIN 5S76545P
'05 Boxster, Guards Red/Beige Leather, 5 Spd, 14,478 Miles, VIN 5U713013
'03 911 Carrera 4 Cabriolet, Orient Red/Graphite Leather, Tiptronic, Only 2,563 Miles, VIN 653842

Select Pre-Owned

'99 911 Carrera Cabriolet, Arctic Silver/Grey Leather, 6 Spd, 33,879 Miles, VIN S656521
'07 Boxster S, Black/Black Leather, 5 Spd, 12,417 Miles, VIN 710334
'03 911 Carrera 4 Cabriolet, Arctic Silver/Graphite, 6 Spd, 15,221 Miles, VIN 651914
'06 Cayenne Titanium, Iceland Blue/Grey Leather, Navigation, 9,119 Miles, VIN A68483
'08 911 Carrera 4S Cabriolet, Macadamia/Sand Leather, Tiptronic, Loaded, Only 794 Miles, VIN 775318
'08 911 Turbo Cabriolet, Guards Red/Black Leather, Tiptronic, Only 2,050 Miles, VIN 788183

If qualifying pre-owned Porsche Approved vehicle is purchased or leased while still under new vehicle warranty, maximum coverage is 6 years/100,000 miles from original in-service date. If purchased or leased outside new vehicle warranty, maximum coverage is 2 years/100,000 miles from date of purchase or lease.