

WHAT TO EXPECT: Pulmonary Artery Thrombolysis (PE Treatment)



FIS Evaluation Clinic Located at TGH

All patients are first evaluated at our outpatient clinic at Tampa General Hospital (TGH) in the Harborside Building located at 5 Tampa General Circle, 8th Floor, Suite 820, Tampa, FL 33606. We are in the same office as FACT (Florida Advanced Cardiothoracic Surgery). Valet parking is offered in front of the Harborside Building and self-parking is always available in the parking garage. **(See Map on Page 3)**

Evaluation

Most patients referred for Pulmonary artery thrombolysis (PAT) have already been admitted to the hospital and are diagnosed with a PE. Interventional Radiology will be consulted to evaluate for PAT if the pulmonologist (lung specialist) or Emergency Physician is concerned the PE is so large it is causing stress on the heart or lungs. Factors including a patient's age, overall health, symptoms, history of previous PE, and CT findings are used to determine whether a patient would benefit from PAT. As the procedure does have risks, we do not perform PAT unless patients have significant symptoms. Patients considered a candidate for PAT will have a full consult to describe the risks and benefits of the procedure and obtain consent.

FIS Procedure Clinic Located at TGH

Our Procedure Clinic Registration is also located at TGH in the Bayshore Pavilion Area K, take elevators to the 3rd floor and precede to the 3K Registration Desk. Valet parking is offered for a small fee on the day of your procedure in front of the Main Entrance and self-parking is always available in the parking garage. **(See Map on Page 3)**

Preparation for the Day of Your Procedure

We ask that you DO NOT eat anything after midnight on the night prior to your procedure or at least 6 hours prior to your procedure. Eating breakfast will force us to delay your procedure as we cannot give you anesthesia safely if you have eaten within 6 hours. **We ask all patients to arrive two hours prior to their scheduled procedure and report to the 3rd floor of the Bayshore Pavilion.** Again our procedure clinic is in the Bayshore Pavilion and after you are registered on the 3rd floor, you will be directed to a private preoperative room. Blood tests are performed as soon as you arrive to assure you are well enough to undergo the procedure.

Medications Administered

During the procedure the patient will be treated with pain and nausea medications as well as "conscious sedation", otherwise known as "twilight sedation".

Evaluation Clinic Location: 5 Tampa General Circle, 8th Floor, Suite 820, Tampa, FL 33606

Procedure Clinic Location: 1 Tampa General Circle, 3rd Floor, 3K Registration, Tampa, FL 33606

Scheduling (813) 844-4570

After Hours (813) 681-0464

Fax (813) 844-4032

Pulmonary Artery Thrombolysis (PE Treatment) Procedure

The pulmonary thrombolysis catheter is advanced through the right common femoral vein in the groin through a tiny incision, there is little pain after access is gained into the vessel. The catheter is then guided into the clot in the pulmonary artery under x-ray guidance and tPa (clot-dissolving enzyme) infused directly into the clot.

Post Procedure

Following placement of the catheter patients are transferred to special post-operative ICU that specializes in caring for thrombolysis patients. The catheter is left in place for 18-24 hours and patients must lie still in bed and are given pain and sleeping medication to keep them comfortable. Although there is little pain involved with the catheter in the vein, patients often complain of back pain and soreness from lying still for 24 hours.

The following day, patients undergoing PAT will be brought back to the Interventional Radiology procedure room and the catheter removed under x-ray guidance. During this second procedure we assess the flow to the lung and how much clot remains. Rarely, do we infuse the tPa more than 24 hours as the medication has additional risks over longer infusions. We may place an IVC filter after the PAT to prevent another large PE, this is done through the same access in the vein as the PAT and does not require another visit to our department. IVC filters are discussed on a separate link on this webpage.

Results of the PAT vary depending on the size of the clot in the Pulmonary Artery, how old the DVT was before causing PE, and a patient's overall health. Some patients have total relief of their symptoms and are able to return home within a few days. Most patients with large PE that do not get PAT are in the hospital for several days to weeks to allow the body to dissolve the clot, which often is not complete.

***See Next Page for a Map of TGH**

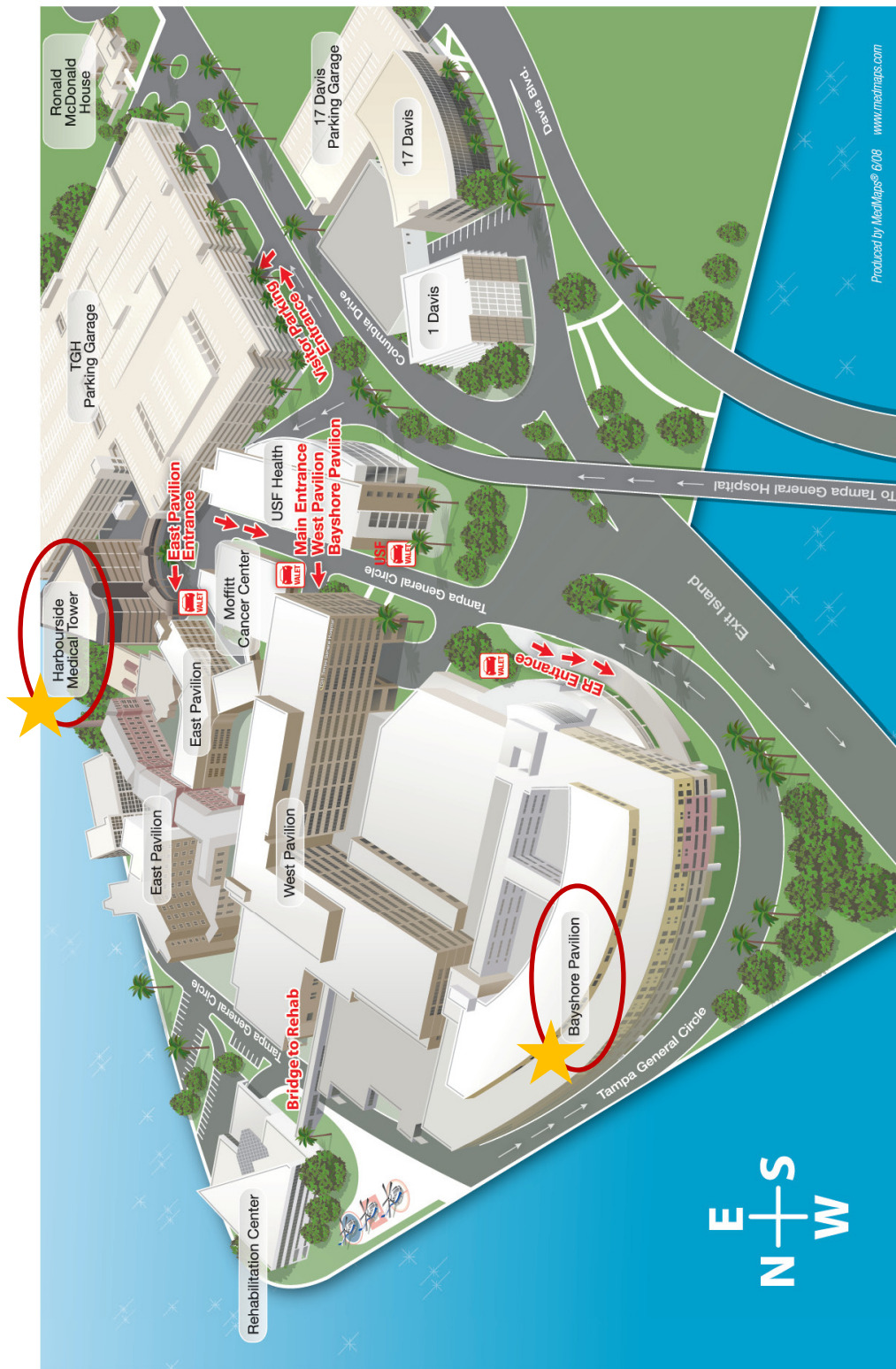
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1 Tampa General Circle • Tampa, FL 33606

Main Switchboard (813) 844-7000
Patient Information (813) 844-7443
PhysicianFinder Referral Service 1-800-822-DOCS
Web site www.tgh.org

Form #: 8422, Rev. 11/11/08

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