



Cardiothoracic and  
Vascular Surgeons

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CARDIOTHORACIC AND VASCULAR SURGEONS RECEIVE  
DISTINGUISHED THREE-STAR RATING IN ISOLATED CORONARY  
ARTERY BYPASS GRAFTING (CABG) AND MITRAL VALVE  
REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR + CABG PROCEDURES PERFORMED  
AT HEART HOSPITAL OF AUSTIN**

**February 10, 2022 – Austin, Texas** - Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons (CTVS) has earned a distinguished three-star rating from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for its patient care and outcomes in isolated coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedures in addition to mitral valve replacement and repair (MVRR) surgery combined with CABG performed at Heart Hospital of Austin. The three-star rating, which denotes the highest category of quality, places CTVS among the elite for heart bypass surgery and MVRR + CABG surgery in the United States and Canada. “The STS recognition emphasizes our dedication to providing high quality cardiac care and outcomes to the residents of Austin and the surrounding area,” said Faraz Kerendi, M.D., surgical director of the heart valve clinic at Heart Hospital of Austin and CTVS cardiothoracic surgeon.

The STS star rating system is one of the most sophisticated and highly regarded overall measures of quality in health care, rating the benchmarked outcomes of cardiothoracic surgery programs across the United States and Canada. The star rating is calculated using a combination of quality measures for specific procedures performed by an STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database participant.

Approximately 20% of participants receive the three-star rating for isolated CABG surgery. The latest analysis of data for CABG surgery covers a 3-year period, from July 2018 to June 2021, and includes 3800 participants. For MVRR + CABG surgery, only 8.6% of participants received the three-star rating. The latest analysis of data covers a 3-year period from July 2018 to June 2021.

“The Society of Thoracic Surgeons congratulates STS National Database participants who have received three-star ratings,” said David M. Shahian, MD, chair of the Task Force on Quality Measurement. “Participation in the Database and public reporting demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement in health care delivery and helps provide patients and their families with meaningful information to help them make informed decisions about health care.”

The STS National Database was established in 1989 as an initiative for quality improvement and patient safety among cardiothoracic surgeons. The Database includes four components: the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD), the Congenital Heart Surgery Database (CHSD), the General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD), and the mechanical circulatory support database (Intermacs). The STS ACSD houses approximately 6.9 million surgical records and gathers information from more than 3,800 participating physicians, including surgeons and anesthesiologists from more than 90% of groups that perform heart surgery in the US. STS public reporting online enables STS ACSD participants to voluntarily report to each other and the public their heart surgery scores and star ratings.

### About STS

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) is a not-for-profit organization that represents more than 7,600 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest. The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.