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Specialists equipped with state-of-the-art technology

A new weapon in medicine is helping Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital clinicians treat patients with heart disease.

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), a technology that takes the viewer inside the arteries, is transforming the way clinicians treat and educate patients.

“OCT is a big step in the right direction when it comes to helping educate patients about heart disease,” Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital Cardiac Catheter Laboratory Director Kaleab Asrress said.

“This technology provides very high resolution images of the heart arteries at levels not previously seen.

“The flythrough video assists during the stenting procedure to precisely place the stent, and is a great learning tool for cardiac patients. Post-surgery, many patients say they are blown away seeing inside their arteries,” Associate Professor Asrress said.

“It definitely has that ‘wow factor’ when we can clearly point out discrepancies in a patient’s artery. Having a visual is a really important tool to help treat one of the biggest killers in the world; coronary heart disease.”

This cutting edge technology is among several other advanced techniques now available to patients in the hospital’s \$1.6 million cardiac catheter lab, now completing coronary stent implantation procedures, which addresses narrowing and blockages in the artery.

“Getting these sort of numbers is testament to how hard we’re working and how much disease is out there. Coronary disease does not discriminate.”

Associate Professor Asrress said very few cardiac catheter labs in NSW had OCT availability. On occasion, clinicians use the flythrough post-surgery to provide patients with a before and after view of their heart.

“This sort of technology is what you see in the world’s most advanced clinics. Now Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital stands alongside them,” he said.

Since opening the cardiac catheter lab a year ago, specialists have seen over 600 cases. That number is expected to climb with the introduction of the coronary stent implantation procedure.

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital General Manager Peter Rophail said it was an exciting time in medicine.

“Being among the leaders in using this technology puts the patients of Sydney’s south west in good stead,” he said.