



QUALITY HEART CARE  
**CARDIOLOGY  
SERVICES**





## TREATMENTS AND PROCEDURES

At McLaren we provide a vast range of cardiac treatments and procedures.

Ablation (also Radio-frequency or RF Ablation) is a procedure where catheters are placed in the heart and RF energy is delivered through the catheter to abnormal heart tissue causing an irregular heartbeat. This neutralizes (ablates) the cardiac cells that are causing an arrhythmia by creating a block that the electrical impulses can no longer cross. The procedure is performed by a cardiac specialist called an electrophysiologist.

Atrial fibrillation treatment options:

- Medications to control heart rhythm, heart rate and blood clotting
- Device implants such as pacemakers
- Catheter ablation
- Surgical ablation, including new minimally-invasive surgery

Coronary Angiography is a procedure used to visualize blood vessels of the heart. A catheter is used to inject a dye into the vessels; the vessels can then be seen by x-ray.

## CARDIAC DIAGNOSTIC SCREENINGS AND TESTS

McLaren also offers many diagnostic screenings and tests which may include:

- Calcium scoring is used to help determine the amount of calcium in the arteries of your heart. Used with other tests to help evaluate your heart, it is usually performed using a CT scan of your heart. Your calcium score gives doctors an idea of how much plaque there is in your heart arteries that hasn't caused problems yet.
- MUGA scan (Multiple Gated Acquisition scan) is a noninvasive tool for assessing the function of the heart. The MUGA scan produces a moving image of the beating heart, and from this image several important features can be determined about the health of the cardiac ventricles (the heart's major pumping chambers).

## CARDIAC SURGERY

Our cardiac surgery program offers a broad range of cardiac surgical options:

- Open heart (coronary artery bypass, or CABG) surgery is performed in order to reroute, or "bypass," blood around blocked arteries, thereby improving the supply of oxygen-rich blood to the heart. Surgeons usually use an artery from the chest wall to construct the "detour" around the blocked part of the artery. Veins from the legs are also used.
- Off-pump bypass surgery is possible for some open heart surgery patients. While standard open heart surgery requires the use of a mechanical heart-lung machine during the procedure, this reduces the risk of some complications and shortens recovery time.
- TAVR (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement) is an FDA-approved, minimally invasive procedure for patients considered low-risk for open-heart valve-replacement surgery. The procedure is performed through a small puncture in the groin or a small incision in the chest.
- Repair of structural heart defects are performed to correct defects in the structures of the heart that are the result of a congenital birth defect or acquired as a result of other cardiac diseases.
- Cardiac trauma surgery is performed when the heart is damaged or involved in a traumatic injury.

## WHY CHOOSE McLAREN?

At McLaren we are committed to doing what's best for our patients by delivering the highest quality evidenced based care. We offer a multitude of educational classes, support groups, screenings, seminars, and other special events to benefit you and your health.

McLaren is a fully integrated healthcare system including 13 hospitals and countless outpatient sites in Michigan, and we have over 400 employed primary and specialty care physicians.

We also operate Michigan's largest network of cancer centers and providers. Our Karmanos Cancer Institute is one of only 54 national cancer institute designated comprehensive cancer centers in the US.

## THE THUMB'S HEART TEAM

At McLaren Thumb Region, Dr. Gassan Alaouie and Beth Britt, NP-C, are heart specialists committed to providing patients with comprehensive and compassionate cardiac care. Our cardiology programs offer advanced diagnostic and treatment options, including the latest minimally invasive cardiac and vascular procedures, and groundbreaking research and clinical trials.





1100 S. Van Dyke Rd.  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 894-3278  
Fax (989) 269-7517  
[mclaren.org](http://mclaren.org)