

# Esophagus Repair Without Incisions

Two patients with a rare digestive disorder were recently treated without surgery at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

The disorder, called achalasia, prevents proper digestion because the valve at the end of the esophagus is unable to relax. Surgery through an abdominal or chest incision is the standard treatment.

An alternative to surgery that's currently in the research phase, the POEM procedure takes a camera-equipped tube, called an endoscope, through the mouth into the esophagus to aid in the repair of the malfunction. POEM stands for peroral endoscopic myotomy.

"This procedure is a major step for surgeons performing surgery without incisions," says Steven Leeds, MD, an esophageal surgeon on the medical staff of the minimally invasive surgery department at Baylor Dallas. "Surgical endoscopy is paving the way for many new procedures, and the POEM procedure is only the tip of the iceberg."

The two initial POEM procedures at Baylor Dallas were part of a research study through Baylor Research Institute to monitor and evaluate the technique.

## WE CAN HELP WITH THAT

Baylor Dallas treats conditions ranging from heartburn to complex digestive disorders. Visit [BaylorHealth.com/DallasDigestive](http://BaylorHealth.com/DallasDigestive) to learn more.



## Baylor Dallas Tops for Safety and Quality

Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas and Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth were among the top 100 large U.S. hospitals based on 40 measures of quality sought by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), according to an organization that focuses on patient safety, quality and efficiency of care.

The SafeCare Group, a software company, conducted the analysis using ACA's metrics aimed at reducing hospital readmissions, curtailing hospital-acquired conditions and achieving value-based care. The two Baylor Scott & White hospitals received their 100 SafeCare Hospitals® distinction for facilities with more than 400 beds.

SafeCare says 400,000 deaths and 5.1 million preventable complications would be reduced annually if all U.S. hospitals matched the performance of the top 100.

"We at Baylor Dallas are blessed with an expert clinical team that is committed to keeping our patients cared for safely in a caring and compassionate environment," says Doug Lawson, chief operating officer of Baylor Dallas.

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Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, 3500 Gaston Ave., Dallas, TX 75246. Patient Information: 214.820.0111. Volunteer Opportunities: 214.820.2441. Giving Opportunities/Baylor Health Care System Foundation: 214.820.3136. Visit [BaylorHealth.com](http://BaylorHealth.com) or call 1.800.4BAYLOR (1.800.422.9567) for information about Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas services, upcoming events, physician referrals, career opportunities and more.

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