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New Device Aids Closure of Heart Defects

In December 2001, the FDA approved a device for closure of arterial septal defect (ASD), a common congenital heart defect, that can be implanted via catheter in the catheterization laboratory. The device is known as the Amplatzer Septal Occluder after its designer, Dr. Kurt Amplatz. Use of the Amplatzer device in appropriate cases takes the place of a major heart operation and requires little recovery time.

The Amplatzer device was the second such "umbrella" device to be approved by the FDA. The CardioSEAL device was approved in the fall of 1999 and is best used for closure of patent foramen ovale (PFO), the most common congenital heart defect, often associated with paradoxical emboli that may result in strokes. The third "umbrella" device to gain FDA approval in April 2002 was the Amplatzer PFO Occluder used for the same indications as the CardioSEAL device.

Dr. Herbert Stern, Director of the Pediatric Catheterization Laboratory, was the first physician to implant all three devices in the Charlotte area and is the ONLY board-certified congenital heart disease specialist in this region approved to perform these procedures. He is accepting referrals of adults with a history of stroke or TIA associated with a patent foramen ovale and any patients with atrial septal defects that are candidates for closure.

Through compassionate patient care, innovative medical procedures and a strong sense of community, the Sanger Clinic has built a reputation of trust and stability in the Carolinas. Founded in 1946 by Paul W. Sanger MD, the Sanger Clinic has grown to include an impressive staff of adult and pediatric cardiologists, and cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgeons. With 11 locations in both North and South Carolina, the Sanger Clinic offers convenient access to heart care. For more information, visit our website at www.sangerclinic.com