Hospital's new cath lab first of its kind in Texas
New lab at Woodland Heights will help physicians treat several heart conditions

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Woodland Heights Medical Center opened a brand new cardiac lab recently, the first of its kind in the state of Texas and the eighth in the nation.

The new lab, which features the Innova 2121 All-Digital Cardiovascular Bi-Plane and Interventional Imaging System, will help physicians treat several heart conditions, including atherosclerosis, a buildup of plaque that affects blood flow in arteries and causes hundreds of thousands of heart attacks and strokes each year and nearly three-fourths of the all deaths from heart disease, according to the American Heart Association.

Dr. R. Bachireddy, a physician with Woodland Heights, said he's excited the hospital now has the new lab.

"It helps me visualize the smallest of arteries," Bachireddy said. "It cuts down my radiation time, cuts my procedure time and I don't have to struggle to see the small arteries during procedures."

The new all-digital system has a flat panel and a bi-plane, which means it can take photographs at the same time from different angles.

"The clarity is improved and the radiation is decreased," Bachireddy said. "Because of the clarity the procedure time is decreased and because it's bi-plane you don't have to take so many pictures and you don't have to give so much dye."

Tara Watson with Woodland Heights' public relations department said she is excited about how far Lufkin has come in the past 10 years in medical technology advances.

"The patients are now able to stay here at home with their physician that they know and trust and love," Watson said.

Patients are also able to be around the nursing staff they know and wind up paying much less in travel and hotel expenses than they would if they had to go to Houston or Dallas.

"It's like you're coming back and your family's taking care of you," Watson said. "I think that says a lot for our medical community wanting and asking for new technology to come here."

Woodland Heights was founded in 1918 as Lufkin's first hospital.