Girl first in Arizona to get heart surgery through veins

By Djamila Noelle Grossman
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

To reduce risks for a 2-year-old girl with heart disease, a University Medical Center physician was the first in Arizona to use a new technique, which allowed closing a hole in the girl’s heart and avoiding open-heart surgery.

Alexis Woods, who has had heart problems since she was born, recovered quickly from the procedure, said her mother, Kelly Woods.

“She has been a lot better; she has more strength, more energy and started eating thoroughly,” Kelly Woods said. “It’s healing faster than I expected.”

Traditionally, when a person has a hole between the two heart chambers, called the Ventricular Septal Defect, open-heart surgery has been required. In this procedure, surgeons would also have to use a heart lung-bypass machine and cut into the heart directly in order to reach the hole, said Dr. Kalyani Trivedi, UMC health care physician who performed the procedure.

After the surgery, the patient would have to stay in the intensive care unit for seven to 10 days, said Dr. Kalyani Trivedi, UMC health care physician who performed the procedure.

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In an effort to gain a better presence on campus, increase community service, and raise money, the National Pan-Hellenic Council is hosting activities throughout the week to get students involved in Greek life.

The NPHC is made up of the historically black fraternities and sororities on campus.

Yesterday they held “penny wars” to raise funds for next year’s board and sorority elections.

Larissa Smith, president of NPHC, expressed concern about the lack of black presence and awareness at the UA.

“Many people don’t know what we are or what we do,” said Smith.

Last week, many black students attended a meeting to come up with ideas about how to increase their presence on campus.

Black students and the NPHC expressed concern about the lack of black presence and awareness at the UA.

The committee passed the bill yesterday, and it now awaits hearing in the full Senate. Rep. Pete Hershberger, R-Tucson, spoke on behalf of the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Gabriel Giffords, D-Tucson, because she was unable to be at the committee meeting.

Hershberger, who is sponsoring a similar bill in the Arizona House of Representatives, said the bill allows health care providers to treat victims of sexual assault as people, rather than just crime scenes, and the bill does not hinder any forensic efforts to gather evidence for prosecution.

“I believe it is very important that we help prevent another trauma of an unwanted pregnancy from a rape,” Hershberger said.

The issue hits home to the UA community in light of recent events. Last semester, several sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults near campus and in mostly-student apartment complexes raised concern on how women could protect themselves.

Bridget Riceci, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault said the bill would help prevent thousands of unwanted pregnancies resulting from rape each year.

One in five women will be victims of sexual assault in their lifetime, and each year 32,000 rape victims are impregnated by their assailant, Riceci said.

She urged the Senate Health Committee to pass the bill to “unite in the interest of rape victims.”

The University of Arizona, Tucson