Forging the Path – TAVR for Congenital Heart

*****SOT*****

Dr. Marc Knepp, Adult Congenital Heart Program Director, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois

"One of her valves, the tricuspid valve, did not form. So half of her heart didn't form, including the right ventricle, which pumps blood to her lungs. So she did not have that chamber of her heart. She was left with one single pumping chamber, so she required surgeries to redirect the blood flow to her lungs." (:20)

*****SOT*****

Kayla Pepmeyer, Adult Congenital Heart Patient, TAVR Recipient

"I've always been the one where they say, 'we've never done this before, but we're going to do it, and if it works, awesome. If not, we'll figure something else out.' So I've always been that guinea pig, per se. It's a little more terrifying now that I'm older, but it's cool to say, 'okay, this can be done." (:20)

*****SOT*****

Dr. Marc Knepp, Adult Congenital Heart Program Director, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois

"By having multiple surgeries, that increases the amount of scar tissue in the chest wall, the difficulty of getting into the heart to operate on it, and we know that multiple surgeries is not good for someone's kidneys, their brain, their liver, or even their heart function long-term. As patients with a single ventricle age, doing repetitive surgeries becomes more and more dangerous with more complication risk, and more risk for even death. So trying to do things minimally invasive, or less invasive, are the ways to look ahead and to develop our field." (:34)

*****SOT*****

Dr. Marco Barzallo, Interventional Cardiologist, OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute

"Her case had a lot of complexities. Her aorta is extremely tortuous. We normally try to go through the femoral artery, which is the easiest procedure, but in her case she had some other complications, so that made the easier way not very feasible. So we came up with a second, better option which is going through her carotid artery, which is the second-most, less- invasive procedure. In her case, this worked very well for us. So coordinating with them, getting all the studies read, getting to understand the physiology and what is at stake, and play all the potential options was actually a great experience for all of us." (:54)

*****SOT*****

Dr. Marc Knepp, Adult Congenital Heart Program Director, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois

"Having that teamwork - that's so necessary for adults with congenital heart disease. Having providers who talk to each other, who want to help take care of patients like this is very important." (:12)

*****SOT*****

Kayla Pepmeyer, Adult Congenital Heart Patient, TAVR Recipient

"I was up the same day and surprised – very surprised – about the amount of pain I was not in, honestly. I'm so used to having to hold my chest to cough and everything, and it was not that. It was easy. Up the same day and they were telling me I was leaving the next day." (:24)

*****SOT*****

Dr. Marc Knepp, Adult Congenital Heart Program Director, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois

"It's just amazing. It encourages us as we watch babies sometimes struggle a little bit after the their cardiac surgery when they're little, to know that later on they're going to be doing well. I think pioneers like Kayla help us actually prepare for the future and to make sure we're doing all the good things that we need to do when the babies are small." (:20)

*****SOT*****

Dr. Marco Barzallo, Interventional Cardiologist, OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute

"It's one of the feelings that you live for. It's not that you just do a procedure, but when you see someone come back to your office, and not just for Kayla, but every patient that has TAVR. It's very rewarding when you have someone, even the same day after the procedure saying, 'I feel good.' Normally after an open heart surgery, you'll have many tools and a wound to heal that takes a longer time to heal. But someone who has instant results and feels the difference right away is actually very rewarding." (:30)