

# LI heart transplants

## 2 in one month done at hospital in Manhasset

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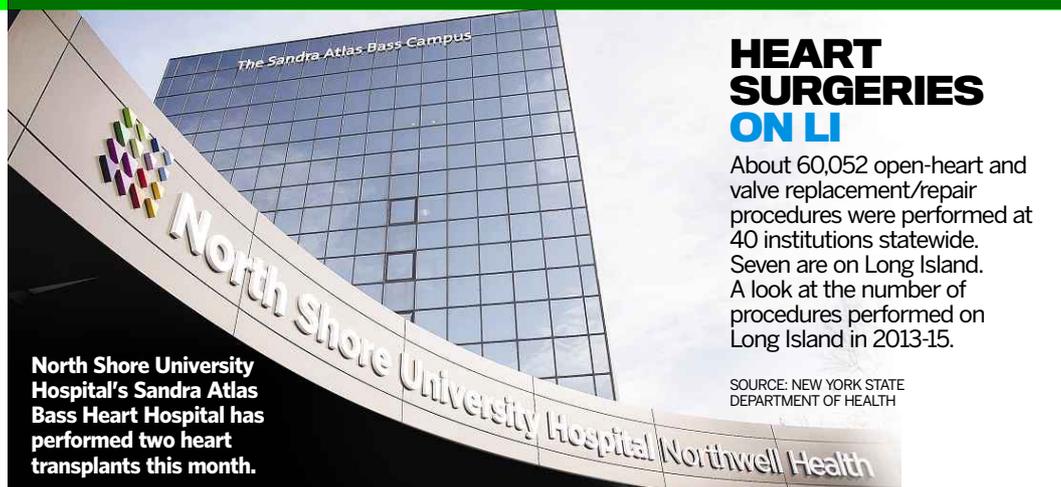
Two heart transplants have been performed this month at Sandra Atlas Bass Heart Hospital in Manhasset, the first ever on Long Island, coinciding with the release of a state report on noteworthy achievements in complex heart procedures at several Long Island institutions.

The transplants were performed within days of each other, a medical milestone for the Island. The Bass Heart Hospital is the only institution on Long Island that performs the operation. The transplant program was approved by the state Health Department last year.

"We just completed our first transplants a few days ago and will have a news conference next week," said Dr. Alan Hartman, senior vice president and executive director of cardiothoracic services at Northwell Health.

Hartman said the first of the two transplants was completed on Feb. 19 and the second was performed six days later. He said the first patient is expected to be released next week and Northwell will hold a news conference on March 8 to discuss the case.

In the greater metropolitan region, heart transplants are also performed at Mount Sinai, New York



CORONARY BYPASS	CASES	DEATHS	VALVE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT	CASES
Good Samaritan Hospital	199	2	Good Samaritan Hospital	147
Long Island Jewish Medical Center	97	0	Long Island Jewish Medical Center	416
NYU Winthrop Hospital	208	1	NYU Winthrop Hospital	517
North Shore University Hospital	421	4	North Shore University Hospital	879
Southside Hospital	170	1	Southside Hospital	362
St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center	481	9	St. Francis Hospital, Heart Center	1,474
Stony Brook University Hospital	297	3	Stony Brook University Hospital	669

Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, and NYU Langone in Manhattan. The complex procedure also is done at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center in the Bronx.

Dr. Brian Lima, director of Northwell's heart transplant program, wrote in Newsday that "360 New York residents [are] awaiting heart transplants, making our state's waiting list one

of the longest in the country."

The Northwell transplants dovetail with the release of a massive state report covering a range of open-heart procedures statewide from 2013 to 2015.

A 22-member independent committee, empaneled by the state Health Department, analyzed how individual hospitals and doctors fared in 60,052 cases. It offers a state report card

## HEART SURGERIES ON LI

About 60,052 open-heart and valve replacement/repair procedures were performed at 40 institutions statewide. Seven are on Long Island. A look at the number of procedures performed on Long Island in 2013-15.

SOURCE: NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NORTHWELL HEALTH

Dr. L. Michael Graver of Northwell's Bass Heart Hospital was one of four cardiothoracic surgeons statewide with one of the lowest mortality rates among his patients, compared with more than 140 surgeons evaluated.

Also cited in the report for outstanding performance was Dr. Maksim Rovensky of St. Francis, The Heart Hospital in Roslyn.

Rovensky, a cardiothoracic surgeon, was recognized for having risk-adjusted mortality rates significantly lower than the statewide average. He practices in Roslyn and at St. Francis Open Heart Surgery Program at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip. Islandwide, the largest volume of heart procedures are performed at St. Francis.

"Health care is a team sport," said Dr. Ronald J. Gulotta, vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer at St. Francis. "One person cannot lay claim to the excellent results. One of the things that makes us stand out is our nursing staff."

St. Francis also was recognized for performing the most transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedures on Long Island. The minimally invasive procedure improves valve function without removing the old, damaged one. Doctors accomplish this feat by wedging a healthy bovine valve over the poorly functioning native one.

"For the past 25 years St. Francis has posted consistently excellent outcomes," said Dr. Newell Robinson, chairman of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.

# U.S. frees LI immigrant teen after 7 months

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An immigrant teen from Long Island, who is among the chief plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against the federal government and its contracted shelter, was released after more than seven months in custody, said the advocacy organization representing him.

The 17-year-old boy, identified only as L.V.M. in court filings, is a Salvadoran who was living in Bellport until July, when agents for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

placed him in detention, pending possible deportation.

The class-action suit, filed Feb. 16 by the New York Civil Liberties Union, seeks to end "the government's prolonged detention of immigrant children across New York State" for minors who have been placed under heightened supervision. He was released Thursday after several news reports on the case.

"We're thrilled to see L.V.M. reunited with his mom," Paige Austin, staff attorney with the NYCLU, said in a statement. "Their family is so happy to be together again, after over half a

year of waiting for a response to his mother's request for his release." The Office of Refugee Resettlement, responsible for the custody of immigrant minors, "had no reason to keep this child in its custody and separated from his family for months on end."

The suit, Austin added, will go on "and we will continue to fight to ensure that other children caught up in the Trump deportation dragnet get the due process and the prompt reunification with family that they deserve."

The federal government has not filed a response to the

suit. A spokeswoman for the government agencies declined to comment Tuesday on the pending litigation.

The legal complaint targets officials with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and its overseeing agencies, the Administration for Children and Families and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It also names The Children's Village, a nonprofit contracted to keep custody of those children in Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County.

L.V.M. was among several students at Bellport High School

in the South Country school district who had been suspended over suspected gang involvement, but he denied the allegations. He told Newsday last summer he was falsely accused of throwing gang signs after making an obscene gesture at another student.

His mother, Edith Esmeralda Mejia de Galindo, a plaintiff, said the family "is happy" to have him back.

"I pray to God," Mejia de Galindo said in Spanish, "that we have a good outcome and that this case helps other children as it has helped mine."