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MedCenter News

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND DENTAL MEDICINE

New treatment offered for damaged esophagus

Thoracic surgeons at BMC recently began offering a noninvasive procedure to treat Barrett's esophagus, a precancerous condition in which a thin layer of tissue lining the lower esophagus is damaged due to chronic acid reflux.

Twenty percent of the U.S. population is believed to suffer from reflux disease, and 10 percent of those individuals are estimated to have Barrett's esophagus.

The procedure utilizes the HALO360 System, which places a balloon catheter into the esophagus during endoscopy. After the balloon is inflated, radiofrequency energy is delivered, removing the diseased tissue lining the esophagus.

BMC is one of the first centers in New England to offer this therapy. Multicenter clinical trials in the United States have demonstrated that in the majority of procedures, Barrett's esophageal tissue was removed and replaced with normal, healthy tissue.

Hiran Fernando, MD

"Prior to the availability of the HALO360 System, the only treatment option available for Barrett's esophagus involved frequent surveillance endoscopies to look for any progression to dysplasia (precancerous tissue) or cancer," explained Hiran Fernando, MD, director of Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery at BMC and associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (617) 638-5600.