Cardiac first gets patient back on her feet quicker

A recent cardiac first-in-the-state of Tennessee meant the world of difference to 60-something patient Cindy Heuser who has atrial fibrillation. In February of 2019, Heuser had her third cardiac ablation procedure, but first at Baptist Memphis.

In the last few decades, Heuser has had two cardiac ablations at another facility.

Cardiac ablation involves catheters being inserted into femoral veins to guide them to the heart to release targeted energy to either freeze or burn the part of the heart causing the arrhythmia.

It typically requires extensive recovery time for the incisions to heal. She couldn’t move for eight hours, had to stay flat on her back after coming out of surgery as not to disturb the incisions, which is a lot harder than it sounds.

When her cardiologist recommended that she have another cardiac ablation earlier this year, he told her about a procedure Dr. Eric Johnson, cardiologist with Stern Cardiovascular, had recently been certified to do, the newly FDA approved VASCADE MVP. This device helps close the femoral vein incision with a mesh disc by stopping the bleeding. With this device, patients don’t have to rest for up to eight hours for the incision to stop bleeding.

“This was much easier,” said Heuser. “I was able to move around, move my legs, walk quicker following surgery; overall a much nicer experience. I was able to leave the hospital without being all taped up.”

Heuser lives in Oxford, so she stayed overnight at Baptist Memphis following her procedure. If she had been local, she could’ve gone home the same day as the procedure.

She has already recommended the procedure to others based on her own good experience with both the new device and Baptist Memphis.