

HEALTHCARE

CUSTOM CONTENT · May 18, 2026





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Orange Coast Medical Center Earns Top National Heart Surgery Ratings

The only Orange County hospital to earn three-star ratings from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons for isolated coronary artery bypass grafting for the seventh consecutive reporting cycle and for multi-procedural cardiac surgeries for the third consecutive reporting cycle.



Tuan Lam, M.D., and Rachel Hargrove, M.D., with the cardiovascular operating room team at Orange Coast Medical Center.

The MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute at Orange Coast Medical Center has earned the highest possible ratings from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), placing the hospital among a select group nationwide recognized for excellence in cardiothoracic surgery.

Orange Coast Medical Center received three-star ratings, the top designation, from STS for isolated coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) for the seventh consecutive reporting cycle and for complex multi-procedural cardiac surgeries for the third consecutive time. It is the only hospital in Orange County to achieve both milestones for the consecutive cycles, reinforcing its role as a regional leader in advanced heart care.

“These are not ceremonial honors—STS ratings are among the most rigorous, data-driven measures in cardiothoracic surgery, reflecting patient outcomes, safety and adherence to evidence-based practices,” said Tuan Lam, M.D., medical director, Cardiac Surgery, MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute, Orange Coast Medical Center. “While earning them is difficult, sustaining them year after year is even harder, but that is our commitment to the community we serve.”

What makes the achievement particularly noteworthy is Orange Coast Medical Center’s status as a community hospital. While national rankings in cardiothoracic surgery are often dominated by large academic medical centers, Orange Coast Medical Center has demonstrated it can meet and exceed their clinical standards while maintaining a personalized, community-based care environment, close to home. Care teams at Orange Coast Medical Center closely follow patients at every stage, with a culture that refuses to settle for good enough when better outcomes are possible.

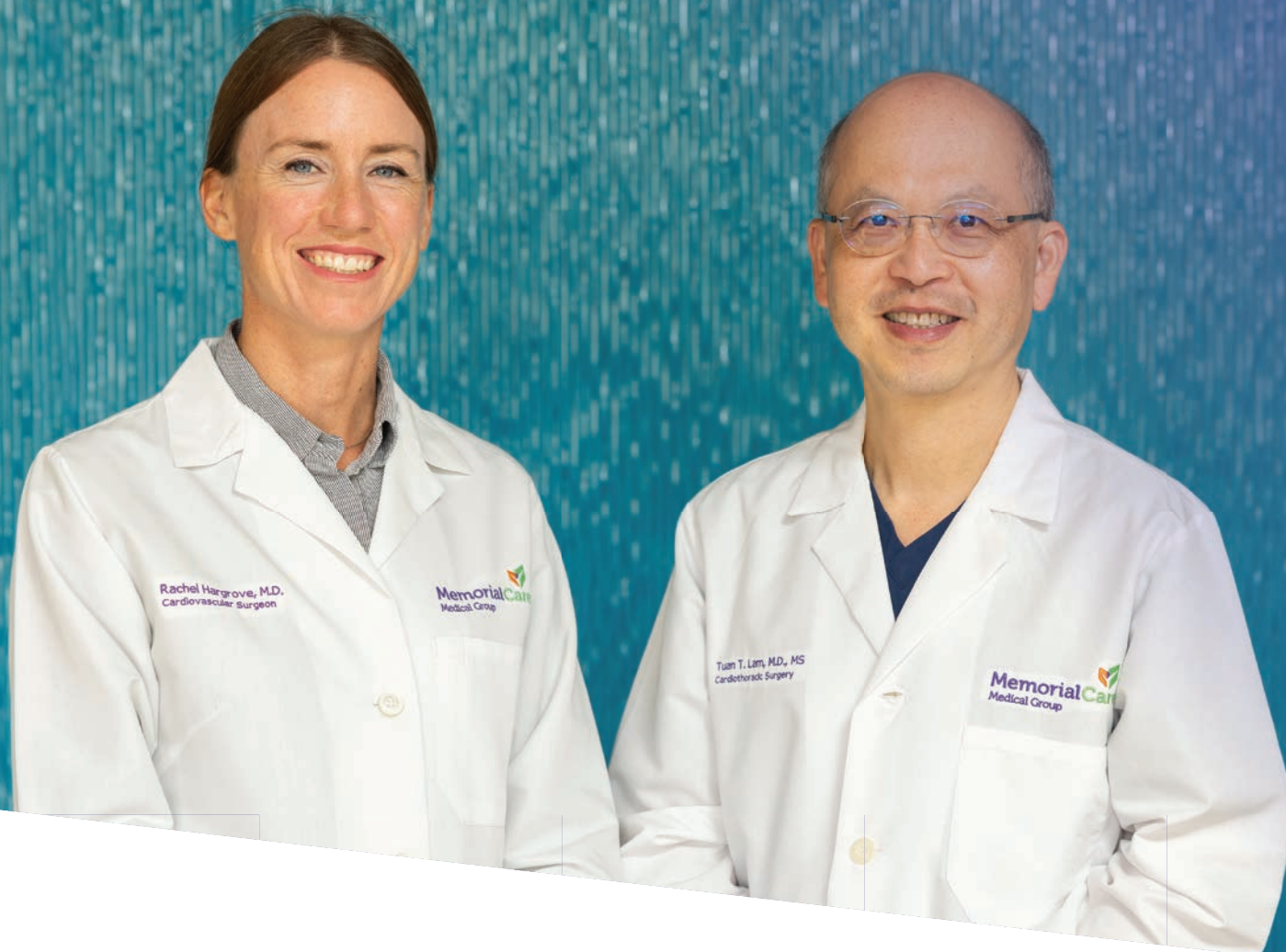
“When patients and families face the most critical moments of their lives, they place enormous trust in us,” said Rachel Hargrove, M.D., cardiothoracic surgeon, MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute, Orange Coast Medical Center. “Our team is committed to earning that trust every day by holding ourselves to the highest standards and continually improving how we care for patients.”

Only about 20% of hospitals participating in the STS National Database earn a three-star rating for CABG, one of the most common and effective treatments for severe coronary artery disease. Orange Coast Medical Center’s three-star designation in the STS multi-procedural category further recognizes its ability to manage complex cardiac cases with consistently strong outcomes.

Measured against a national registry capturing more than 95% of adult cardiac surgeries nationwide, Orange Coast Medical Center consistently ranks among the country’s top-performing cardiothoracic surgery programs.



[Scan here to learn more.](#)



Rachel Hargrove, M.D.
and Tuan Lam, M.D.

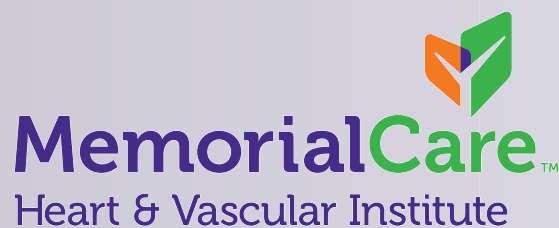
The Gold Standard for Heart Surgery— MemorialCare Leads Orange County

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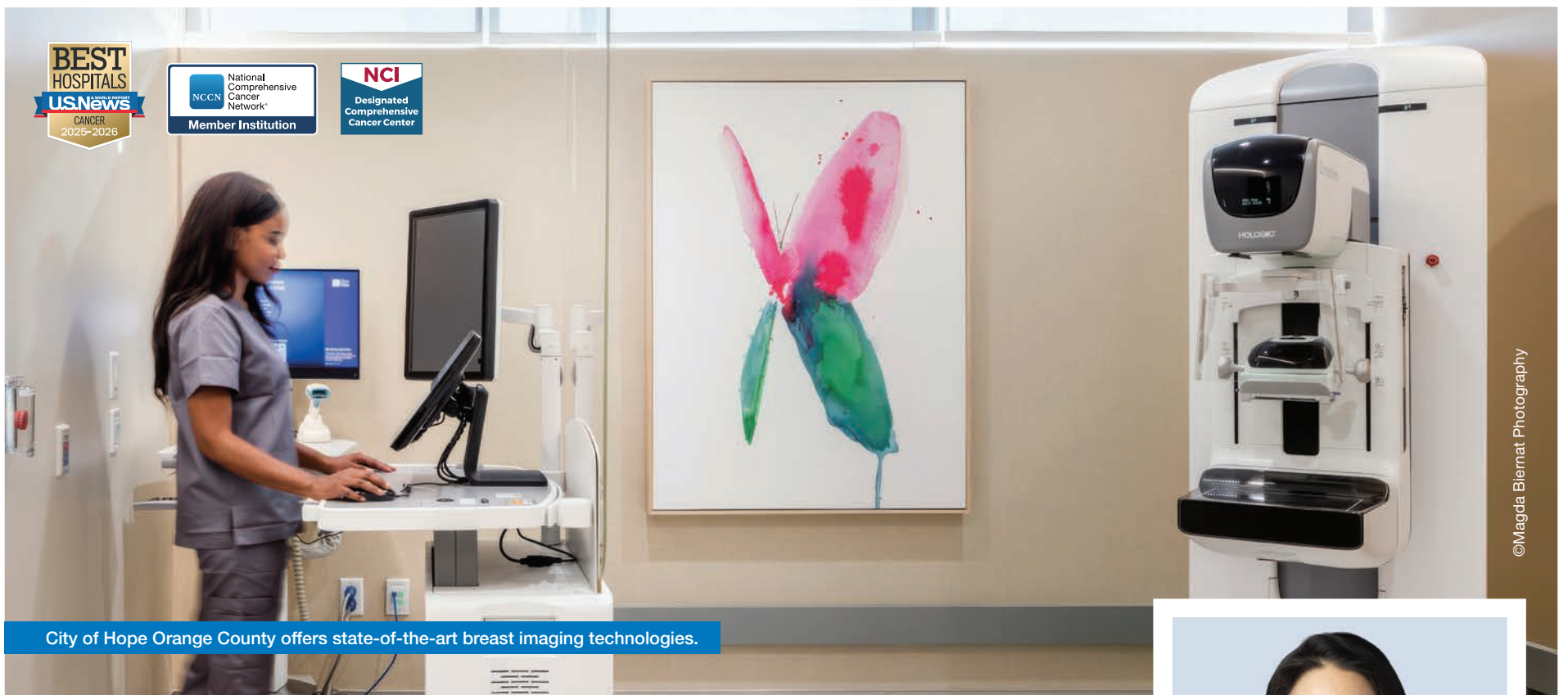
- MemorialCare is the only health system in Orange County to earn seven consecutive three-star ratings for isolated coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) and multi-procedural cardiac surgery
- Achieved a three-star rating—the highest distinction—from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, one of the most rigorous surgical quality measures
- Leading outcomes for complex, high-risk cardiac surgeries, including cases combining bypass with valve repair or replacement



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Women, Protect Your Health — and Your Hope for the Future

CITY OF HOPE ORANGE COUNTY URGES WOMEN TO FOLLOW UP ON ALL IMPORTANT CANCER SCREENINGS



City of Hope Orange County offers state-of-the-art breast imaging technologies.

Cancer rates are rising in people under 50 across the country and around the world. And here in Orange County, early cancer diagnosis rates are higher than those in surrounding counties. These new younger faces of cancer include many women who have been diagnosed in their 40s or even their 30s.

AMONG THE LEADING CANCER CONCERNS FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES ARE:

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers occurring in women. If you have not scheduled a mammogram recently, or if you are unsure whether you are due, be proactive and contact your physician to get the answers and the screenings you need.

“Paying attention to breast health is a key part of a woman’s individual wellness plan,” said Irene M. Kang, M.D., the medical director of women’s health medical oncology at City of Hope® Orange County. “Be informed about your breast cancer risk and steps you can take to reduce your risk, such as limiting alcohol consumption, staying at a healthy weight and getting a mammogram or other screening tests regularly.”

Through advances in prevention and early detection, and breakthroughs in research and treatment, City of Hope Orange County breast cancer specialists are delivering outcomes to patients that are difficult to achieve elsewhere.

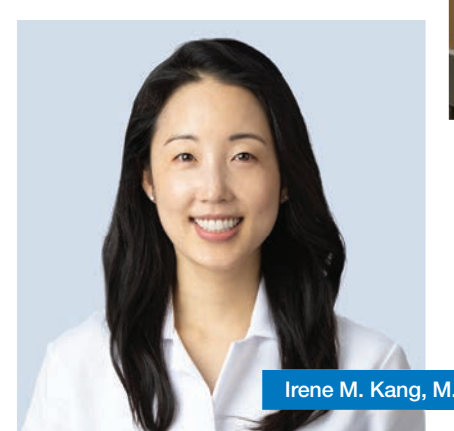
- 3D mammography to better detect and locate breast cancer.
- Breast-conserving surgery that removes early-stage tumors while delivering excellent cosmetic outcomes.
- Targeted therapies that selectively attack breast cancer cells.
- High-Risk Breast Clinic at City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center, where adults with a family history of breast cancer can meet with a team of experts to determine their best options for surveillance and risk reduction.

Cervical and Other Gynecologic Cancers

While overall rates of cervical cancer are decreasing, recent studies have shown that late-stage cervical cancer rates are increasing in the United States,

particularly in women 30-34 years of age and in diverse demographics. The cause is unknown but missed screenings could be a factor, experts say.

“If caught early, cervical cancer is highly treatable. These concerning trends point to the importance of screening with pap smears and HPV testing,” said Joshua G. Cohen, M.D., the medical director of gynecologic cancer at City of Hope Orange County. “Seeking highly specialized care when diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer, such as cervical cancer, can significantly improve your outcome and quality of life.”



Irene M. Kang, M.D.

City of Hope Orange County specializes in state-of-the-art treatments for gynecologic cancer, including:

- Preconception preventive care for women at high hereditary risk of gynecologic cancer.
- Minimally invasive robotic surgery for a quicker return to normal activities.
- Immunotherapies that activate the immune system to target cancer cells.
- Fertility-preserving therapy options.
- Urogynecologic specialty services for side effects such as pelvic floor conditions.

City of Hope Orange County offers convenient access to mammograms and colonoscopies, some of the most effective tests for detecting cancer early, when it is most treatable. Take time for a routine screening today. Doing so can change the course of your future and protect the moments that matter most.

To schedule a mammogram at City of Hope Orange County, call **949-671-4100**. Or, to schedule a colonoscopy, call **800-826-4673**.

With superior cancer survival rates, hope flourishes every day. THIS IS HOPE.

Tanya Siddiqi, M.D.,
Medical Director, Lymphoma,
City of Hope Orange County

Kathy W.,
Grateful Patient



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Orange County's only cancer specialty hospital is open. Now, you have seamless access to the region's most advanced inpatient and outpatient cancer care. More academic research. More discovery! More pioneering treatments with superior survival outcomes. This is how a cancer-free future happens.



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Orange County's only cancer specialty hospital

Now Open

Detecting gene-driven lung cancers



Each year, lung cancer claims the lives of more U.S. men and women than breast, colon and prostate cancer combined, largely because it isn't detected early enough. That's why UCI Health thoracic surgeon Dr. Hari B. Keshava stresses the importance of lung cancer screening.

Keshava's current research is focused on the 10% to 20% of lung cancers seen in people who never (or rarely) smoked and consequently aren't candidates for screening under current U.S. guidelines.

Because many of these nonsmokers have a type of lung cancer caused by a genetic mutation, he is conducting a clinical research study aimed at immediate family members of these patients in hopes of detecting the disease early, when it is most treatable.

"We're seeing a lot more patients without a smoking history who still get lung cancer," says Keshava, an assistant professor of thoracic surgery at the UC Irvine School of Medicine. "There's a predominance of lung cancer in family members, so why don't we screen them for a genetic or an environmental component?"

The study at the UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center offers free, low-dose computed tomography (CT) scans to people between the ages 40 to 80 with at least one first-degree relative whose lung cancer has a genetic mutation that is "driving" the tumor growth.

"We don't have screening guidelines for anybody who doesn't smoke," laments Keshava. That means their lung cancer is usually found either incidentally or once they already have symptoms.

"We see a lot of lung cancer found after a CT scan for another reason, like after a car accident, or because of later-stage symptoms such as a cough or intractable pain."

The screening itself is simple, Keshava notes. "You sit in a CT scanner, which is open — not claustrophobic like an MRI — and it lasts only about 30 seconds," he says. "It's also very low-dose radiation, the equivalent of a plane flight from L.A. to New York."

The scan allows doctors to inspect the lungs for any masses or nodules in trial participants.

"If any abnormalities are found, we notify the patient's primary care physician, pulmonologist or cardiologist, and they go through the usual pathways of care," he says. "We will also follow up with study participants for the next three years, particularly if there is an abnormality."

Treatment options for lung cancer are improving, including minimally invasive robot-assisted surgery, precision radiation therapy and chemotherapy. In addition, genetic testing of tumors can open the door to therapies that target the genetic mutations driving the disease.

Still, the earlier a tumor is found, Keshava says, the higher the chances of a cure.

Findings from the investigator-initiated clinical trial, which seeks to enroll about 1,700 family members of lung cancer patients, could spur changes in screening guidelines.

"I hope to open up lung cancer screening for a whole population that we currently don't screen for, because if we find the cancer early, we can cure it."

People who want to participate in the study may call 877-827-8839.

Learn more at ucihealth.org/clinical-trials/uci-24-118

Our cancer discoveries are your victories.

Your victories are our motivation, driving us to unlock the next breakthrough. Our dedication to discovery means more targeted therapies, fewer side effects and innovative care for patients like you. Your fight is our fight, and together we never cease in our commitment to a cancer-free world.

Visit ucihealth.org/cancer
or call 714-500-7891 to schedule
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UCI Health

Chao Family Comprehensive
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Dr. Daniela A. Bota,
a neuro-oncologist
at UCI Health





CHOC Foundation

Part of Rady Children's Health



Philanthropy Powers a Healthier Future for Orange County's Children

For more than three decades, Pacific Life and Pacific Life Foundation have helped shape what pediatric healthcare looks like for families across Orange County.

This year, that enduring commitment takes center stage as Pacific Life and Pacific Life Foundation serve as the presenting sponsor of the 2026 CHOC Gala, supporting Rady Children's Health in Orange County, and are honored as the Children's Champion. The recognition reflects not just long-standing generosity but a deep, strategic investment in the health and well-being of children—especially in areas where the need is greatest.

A defining focus of this partnership has been pediatric mental health. In 2018, Pacific Life helped establish Orange County's first inpatient mental health center for children under age 12—the Cheresse Mari Lauhere Mental Health Inpatient Center on Rady Children's Orange campus—an essential milestone at a time when youth mental health needs were rapidly rising. Building on that effort, the organization made a transformative \$2 million gift in 2022 to expand both inpatient and outpatient mental health and eating disorder services.

Their impact reaches far beyond a single program. Pacific Life has supported initiatives across the continuum of care, including oncology camp experiences, clinical nutrition, palliative and rehabilitative care, and a capital gift toward the Thompson Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.

"Rady Children's Health in Orange County plays a significant role in the health and well-being of our local youth," said Darryl Button, president and chief executive officer of Pacific Life. "We are pleased to continue our support of their mission, and on behalf of all our employees, we are proud to accept this year's CHOC Gala Children's Champion award."

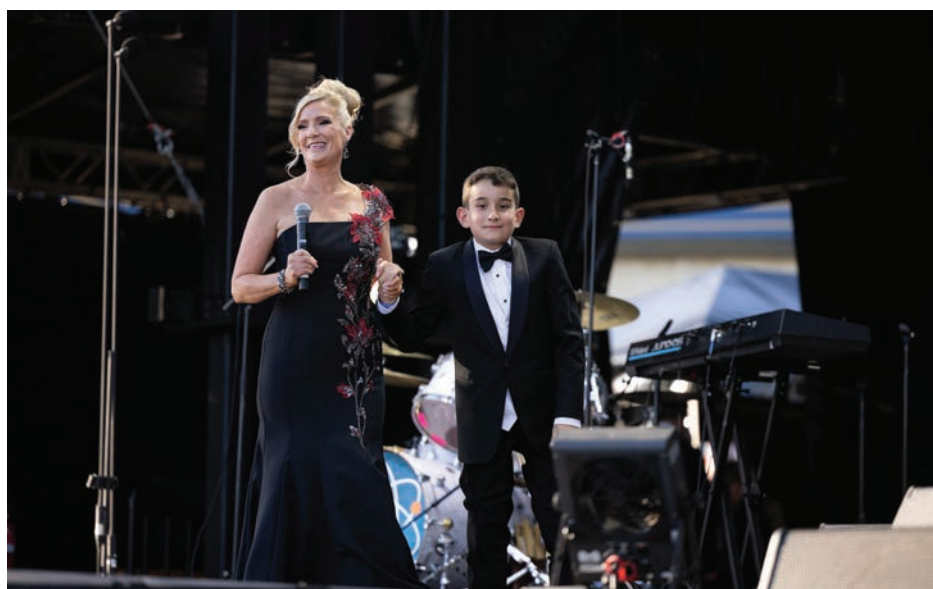
That mission is more expansive than ever.

Rady Children's Health in Orange County (Rady Children's) advances care for more than 720,000 children each year. With over 50 specialty areas, a growing network of more than 40 ambulatory sites, and nationally recognized programs, the organization is redefining what's possible in pediatric medicine.

Recent advancements highlight both the scale and urgency of that work:

- A new nine-story tower expands access to state-of-the-art outpatient care, expected to serve more than 168,000 visits annually.
- A pediatric-only urgent care in Irvine brings expert, child-focused treatment closer to home for families.
- School-based WellSpaces continue to grow, delivering mental health support directly to students, with more than 34,000 visits in the past year alone.
- Research efforts are accelerating, including significant growth in neonatal research and breakthroughs in areas such as cancer immunotherapy and Down syndrome research.

At the same time, programs that support the full experience of childhood—like child life services, which reach more than 54,000 patients annually—ensure that care extends beyond clinical treatment to comfort, healing, and resilience.



None of this happens in isolation.

As a nonprofit health system, Rady Children's relies on philanthropic support to remain responsive, innovative, and accessible. Flexible funding—like the proceeds from the CHOC Gala—fuels the hospital's greatest needs, allowing leaders and clinicians to direct resources where they are needed most, whether that's expanding mental health access, investing in breakthrough therapies, or removing barriers to care.

Philanthropy doesn't just enhance care—it makes it possible.

It enables faster responses to emerging health crises. It ensures that families can access care regardless of their ability to pay. And it drives the kind of innovation that transforms outcomes for children facing the most complex conditions.

Most importantly, it protects something less tangible but just as critical: childhood itself.

Every investment helps preserve the moments that define a young life—first days of school, time on the playground, celebrations with family, and milestones still to come.

Through their leadership, generosity, and culture of service, Pacific Life and Pacific Life Foundation exemplify what it means to invest in a healthier future. Their partnership is a powerful reminder that when a community comes together in support of its children, the impact is lasting—and life-changing.

Philanthropy fuels, expands, and advances Rady Children's work in pediatric medicine. Become a defender of childhood and take giant steps with us as we care for our communities together. Donate now at choc.org/give.

Pacific Life President and CEO Darryl Button is joined onstage at the 2026 CHOC Gala by Pacific Life employees and their families who have received life-saving care at Rady Children's Health Orange County.



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Your support helped us raise \$7 million to advance pediatric care.



"Because of you, I get to celebrate Mother's Day tomorrow with my daughter."
-Cindy, grateful mother and employee of Pacific Life.

When It Comes to Orthopedic Surgery, Experience Matters.

Hoag Orthopedic Institute is the West Coast Volume Leader in Shoulder Replacement Surgery

New Study Highlights the Importance of Surgeon Expertise

A new peer-reviewed study published in the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Arthroplasty* has put hard numbers behind a long-held intuition in orthopedic medicine: the more shoulder replacements a surgeon performs, the better the outcomes for patients.

The study analyzed data from more than 332,000 patients across eight studies to establish evidence-based volume thresholds for shoulder arthroplasty. Surgeons performing fewer than five cases per year had significantly higher rates of complications and revision surgery. The best outcomes were seen among surgeons performing 28 or more procedures annually, defining the threshold at which true sub-specialization translates into meaningfully lower risk for patients.



Hafiz Kassam, MD

“Shoulder replacement surgery is performed three times more today than it was a decade ago, and patients deserve to understand the factors that will influence their outcomes,” said Hafiz Kassam, MD, Director of Shoulder Reconstruction at Hoag Orthopedic Institute (HOI) and senior author of the study. “This

research demonstrates that experience and procedural volume play a critical role in preventing complications and the need for additional surgery. At HOI, our commitment is to deliver evidence-based, subspecialized care that reflects that standard.”

Hoag Orthopedic Institute: Setting the Benchmark on the West Coast

For Hoag Orthopedic Institute, this study is a reflection of what the institution has built. As the volume leader in shoulder replacement surgery on the West Coast, HOI’s fellowship-trained shoulder surgeons collectively performed more than

2,000 shoulder surgeries in 2025, the most in Orange County, including 670 shoulder replacements. That volume is not incidental. It is the product of a deliberate focus on sub-specialization, surgical excellence and continuous investment in the most advanced techniques available.

Dr. Kassam is one of the highest volume shoulder replacement surgeons in the Western United States, performing nearly 350 replacements per year. He completed his fellowship training at Yale in shoulder and elbow surgery and is a recent recipient of the Charles S. Neer Award from the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons, one of the most prestigious honors in the specialty. He is also an active researcher, educator and mentor to shoulder surgeons internationally. Dr. Kassam will present on advances in shoulder surgery, including augmented reality and robotic shoulder surgery, at upcoming conferences in Sydney and Berlin. Both technologies are expected to be broadly available to patients at HOI in the near future.

Hoag Orthopedic Institute’s surgeons are not only operators. They are researchers, educators and fellowship trainers who actively shape the standards of the specialty. The volume threshold study itself reflects that culture, translating clinical experience into published evidence that benefits patients well beyond Orange County.

What Physician Experience Means for Patients

For the estimated one in five Americans who will experience significant shoulder pain in their lifetime, choosing the right surgeon is one of the most consequential decisions they will make. This study gives patients a concrete framework for that decision. Asking a surgeon how many shoulder replacements they perform each year is no longer just a reasonable question. It is an evidence-based one.

To learn more, visit HOIexperts.com/Shoulder

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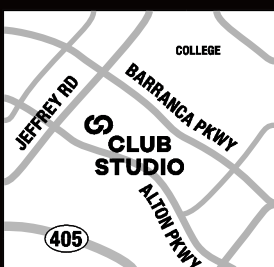
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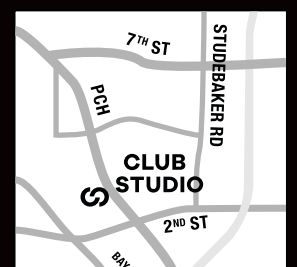


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