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Dr. Robert Tozzi Guests on SiriusXM Doctor Radio

Prominent Cardiologist Discusses Hidden Heart Ailments

New York, N.Y. – Dr. Robert J. Tozzi, Chief of Pediatric Cardiology at the Hackensack University Medical Center, was a featured expert during a one-hour discussion of heart-health issues, hosted by Dr. Greg Ribikove, Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Vice Chair, Department of Surgery, at Maimonides Medical Center in New York. The discussion took place during Dr. Ribikove's morning program on SiriusXM Doctor Radio, broadcast live February 7, 2014, from studios located at the NYU Medical Center in Midtown East in Manhattan.

Dr. Tozzi is also the Founding Director of the Gregory M. Hirsch Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Center in Hackensack, N.J. He is considered one of the foremost experts currently active in the United States in the field of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) diagnosis and treatment.

HCM is a condition in which the heart muscle becomes thick. Often, only one part of the heart is thicker than the other parts. The thickening can make it harder for blood to leave the heart, forcing the heart to work harder to pump blood. The condition can manifest unexpectedly in childhood and young adulthood, and it has been blamed for a number of sudden death cases during school athletics competition, in which the condition had not previously been detected.

Drawing on his knowledge as a sports-team cardiologist, Dr. Tozzi spoke of the various situations in which HCM can become a problem in patients who have not been pre-screened for the condition.

Dr. Tozzi stressed that, even though most patients with HCM have a normal life expectancy, some children and adults may have a more aggressive form of the disease and may need interventions such as medications, pacemakers, defibrillators and surgery. He also reviewed the role of genetic testing in families that are known to have the disease in order to identify individuals who are potentially at risk for the development of the disease in the future.

Among other items, he stressed the need for CPR training and the placement of AEDs in public places that are not limited only to school buildings.

Dr. Ribikove and Dr. Tozzi were joined in the discussion by cardiothoracic surgeons Dr. Gregory Crooke and Dr. Israel Jacobowitz, both affiliated with the Maimonides Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Robert J. Tozzi can be contacted at The Pediatric Center for Heart Disease at HackensackUMC phone 201-487-7617. His website can be viewed at www.drtoz.com

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