

# Southern Vascular Institute

**Southern Vascular Institute (SVI) consists of six Interventional Radiologists and two physician extenders.**

Interventional Radiologists (IR) are physicians who specialize in minimally invasive, targeted treatments. They offer the most in-depth knowledge of the least invasive treatments available, coupled with diagnostic and clinical experience across all specialties. They use X-rays, Ultrasound, CT or MRI imaging to advance a catheter, a tube inserted into the body, to nonsurgically treat the source of disease.

For the past 30 years, Interventional Radiologists have been responsible for much of the medical innovation and development of the minimally invasive procedures that are common today. For instance, the Interventional Radiology role in the innovation of angioplasty and the catheter-delivered stent for peripheral arterial disease changed the landscape of cardiology with coronary artery angioplasty. Today many conditions that once required surgery can be treated with minimally invasive procedures by interventional radiologists.

Interventional radiologists are board-certified physicians with additional advanced training in minimally invasive, targeted treatments performed using imaging for guidance. Their procedures have less risk, less pain and less recovery time compared to open surgery. Their board certification includes both Vascular & Interventional Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology.

## **Advantages of Interventional Radiology**

- Most procedures can be performed on an outpatient basis or require only a short hospital stay.
- General anesthesia usually is not required.
- Surgical incisions are not required.
- Risk, pain and recovery time are often significantly reduced compared to surgery.
- The procedures are often less expensive than surgery or other treatments.
- Interventional Radiology often provides a novel, effective solution to a difficult problem, such as treatment of arterial aneurysms, or the dissolution of blood clots in the distal arteries of the legs.

- In arterial disorders, Interventional Radiology techniques allow patients to keep their own arteries instead of replacement with artificial grafts.
- Interventional Radiologists are well trained in the safety and minimal use of x-rays and thus can provide patients with the least exposure possible.