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## New system at Fuld gives doctors a view into the brain in great detail

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TRENTON — A cluster of squiggly red tubes covered a computer monitor hanging over an operating table.

Dr. Erol Veznedaroglu reached up and touched a swollen blob in the center of the screen. It showed an aneurysm — a swollen blood vessel in the brain of a woman he and his colleagues had treated at Capital Health System's Fuld hospital earlier yesterday morning.

They had faced a dilemma: how were they going to neutralize the aneurysm? By clearing it with a tiny platinum coil? Clipping shut the diseased portions?

Plugging it with a glue-like substance was another option. The wrong option.

"If we shut this all down, this vessel would close," Veznedaroglu said, pointing to a line branching off the aneurysm, "and the patient would have a stroke."

Thanks to the new imaging system that went online at Fuld yesterday, Veznedaroglu and fellow neurosurgeon Dr. Kenneth Liebman saw the other vessel and concluded that they needed to perform surgery, they said.

So they moved the patient to an adjacent operating room, performed brain surgery and clipped shut the aneurysm, allowing blood to continue flowing through the other vessel.

The highly detailed, rotatable image of brain blood vessels that helped them pick the best treatment option is a feature of the new biplane

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PHOTO BY CIE STROUD/FOR THE TIMES

Dr. Erol Veznedaroglu holds a stent used to support diseased blood vessels in the brain. A new imaging system at Capital Health System's Fuld hospital in Trenton helps to determine the best treatment options.

### BRAIN

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angiography system they used for the first time.

The system also takes CT scans at the touch of a button, they said.

In addition to letting the doctors see into the brain in great detail, the system helps them treat aneurysms, strokes, head and neck tumors and other conditions without conducting traditional brain surgery.

Instead, they can insert a microcatheter into a patient's groin and guide it up through the body, through the heart and neck and into the brain. They can then inject glue, guide metal coils to clear blockages or implant stents to support diseased vessels.

The equipment cuts the length of procedures for some conditions from several hours to as little as 15

minutes or half an hour, Veznedaroglu said.

By putting one team in charge of every aspect of a patient it also speeds up treatment and improves outcomes, the doctors said.

"We get the phone call. We examine the patients. If it's appropriate, we do the treatment," Liebman said. "There's no middle person."

Only two or three systems so advanced exist in the world, according to Capital Health.

The two doctors and the rest of the team that makes up the Stroke and Cerebrovascular Center of New Jersey moved from Jefferson University in Philadelphia to Fuld last year. Capital Health invested \$30 million to set up the new center, the company said.

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