

What if it's NOT indigestion?



Betting your life that you're NOT having a heart attack has some very high stakes. The consequences of ignoring the symptoms -- chest pain, shortness of breath and weakness -- can be fatal.

Getting emergency medical care immediately is often critical to survival. Today, powerful drugs can be administered which dissolve blood clots -- literally stopping a heart attack in progress -- if the patient gets to the hospital in time. These drugs are most effective within 90 minutes of when pain begins. Most damage to the heart is irreversible after four hours.

The CHEST PAIN EMERGENCY CENTER at The Brunswick Hospital is equipped with sophisticated monitoring technology and is staffed by experienced physicians and nurses who can verify that a heart attack is the problem and begin the appropriate treatment immediately.

Making excuses for chest pain is very risky business. You could be betting your life.

Chest Pain Emergency Center



**THE BRUNSWICK
HOSPITAL**

Highway 17 South, Supply, NC 28462
(919)754-8121

VOLUNTEERS
Mitzi Bernatzky and Bill Geller in front of the gift shop operated by the Brunswick Hospital Auxiliary. They are among the 24 retirees who provide a variety of valued services to the staff and patients. Geller, after 13 years of service, is as much an institution as the hospital itself.



Local, Regional Hospitals Work Together To Ensure Good Care

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iday babies. It also sponsors the collection of soda can tabs to be redeemed for contributions to the Ronald McDonald House program.

Physician recruiting is an ongoing process at The Brunswick Hospital, and the its most recent staff additions have included a third family practice physician, an otolaryngologist, a psychiatrist and a fourth emergency room physician.

Earl Tamar, chief executive officer of The Brunswick Hospital, said, "The percentage of our county's population which is over 65 has been increasing at a high rate over the past ten years and will continue to do so in the years to come. The Brunswick Hospital will continue to implement new programs and services which will directly benefit the senior citizens of Brunswick County."

Dosher Memorial Hospital

In the 60 years since its opening, Dosher Memorial Hospital in Southport has seen remarkable change. Gone are its days of crowded corridors and antiquated equipment. Today a staff of more than 100 works in a modern facility built around the old hospital.

They work in 20 departments ranging from a new intensive care unit to radiology. New technology such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and the CT scan are used to test and treat the 13,000 patients who visit Dosher annually.

Dosher's growth has been especially rapid in the past few years. Besides the expansion of in-house services, there are now outpatient services, including physical therapy. In addition, a new office park has been built next to the hospital, providing space for physicians and support personnel, helping to centralize health care even more.

More than 100 volunteers put in 10,000 hours a year to raise money for the hospital and help it function smoothly.

Dosher opened its doors as the Brunswick

County Hospital in 1930 with 34 beds, five staff members and borrowed surgical equipment. It is the birthplace of many native Brunswick Countians.

Plans for the Brunswick County Hospital were begun in 1925. By 1929, \$15,000 had been subscribed by both the county and the City of Southport with the Duke Endowment Fund contributing \$15,000.

Built as a rural service hospital, the Brunswick County Hospital provided services for a dollar a day for those who could not afford to pay their expenses. In return, the Duke Endowment reimbursed the hospital for its care of these patients.

Its name was changed in 1939 to honor chief surgeon Dr. J. Arthur Dosher.

Cape Fear Memorial Hospital

Cape Fear Memorial Hospital is a 142-bed, private, not-for-profit acute care hospital located at 5301 Wrightsville Ave., Wilmington. The community hospital was founded in 1957 by three local physicians who sought to

create a private hospital dedicated to serving the needs of its residents. From modest beginnings, the hospital has grown into a modern facility equipped to respond to a variety of health care needs.

The hospital offers a comprehensive range of ambulatory, medical and surgical services, including the Emergency Center which is staffed by emergency medicine physicians around the clock.

With a medical staff of 189 specialists and general practice physicians, Cape Fear Memorial Hospital serves a variety of community health care needs. An active hospital auxiliary provides additional staff support.

Cape Fear Memorial Hospital's specialty units include ambulatory surgery, endoscopy, obstetrics and gynecology, intensive care, magnetic resonance imaging and CT scanning, physical therapy and occupational rehabilitation.

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Retirees are more than just clients of the emergency health care system. They constitute a critical core of volunteer rescue squad membership throughout the county and are the backbone of such programs as Hospice.