

Imagine lifesaving surgery through an incision as small as this



That's what East Texas Vascular Associates surgeons are doing in special surgical suites at ETMC Tyler.



S. Edwin Duncan, MD
Vascular surgeon



J. Blake Harrison, MD
Vascular & colorectal surgeon



D. Brent Kerns, MD
Vascular surgeon



David L. Young, MD
General surgeon

Board-certified surgical experts.

Vascular surgeons Dr. S. Edwin Duncan, Dr. J. Blake Harrison and Dr. D. Brent Kerns are using incisions as tiny as a baby's toe to clear arteries, remove clots, repair aneurysms, prevent strokes and perform other procedures that used to require major surgery.

Their partner, general surgeon Dr. David L. Young, also uses minimally invasive techniques for gallbladder, hernia, thyroid, gastrointestinal and other appropriate surgeries.

Dr. Kerns explains, "The field has transformed from doing open surgery to more minimally invasive techniques, which lead to smaller incisions, shorter hospitalizations, less pain and a more rapid recovery—and that's a great advantage for the patient."

For more information, call HealthFirst at 1-800-648-8141.

One with East Texas.

A not-for-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life in East Texas communities.

Advanced care at ETMC.

The surgeons from East Texas Vascular Associates perform these small wonders in new, high-tech surgery suites at ETMC Tyler.

Dr. Duncan is a frequent user of the dedicated endovascular surgery suite: "This endovascular room allows us to do things from an imaging point of view that otherwise would not be possible."

Dr. Harrison, who is also board certified in colorectal surgery, relies on ETMC, too: "I've trained all over the country and the facilities and the people here at the East Texas Medical Center really are as good as you'll find any place."

Lifesaving, cutting-edge surgery with hardly any cutting. From East Texas Vascular Associates and ETMC.



**East Texas Medical Center
Regional Healthcare System**

www.etmc.org

Maybe she would still be alive

By Tuala Williams
Texas Publishers Association

Pam, a freshmen at Lubbock, Texas' Estacado High School, lies peacefully still, eyes closed, hands crossed over her chest, beautifully arrayed in her Sunday best as friends, loved ones and acquaintances file by to say their final goodbyes. But she will not speak back. Her mother cries out in grief for her child, stolen from her so young in life, but her cries will not bring her back, nor will the mourners who fill the church to capacity be able to ease her agony. No mother should know such loss, no human should know such pain. No one should have to die this way.

Pam had slipped out with her boyfriend hours after her mother thought she was in bed asleep, thinking she would be home before sunrise, she left the bedroom window unlocked. But Pam never made it back through that window. At 4 a.m. her mother was awakened with horrifying news. Her daughter had been in a terrible accident. The mother grappled with the news. How could this be true when she had just seen her child go to bed only hours earlier. But after going to the youth's room to verify the facts, all she could find was an empty bed. Pam was gone - this time for good.

Witnesses say Pam's boyfriend was drunk the morning he plowed into the light pole. According to sources, as Pam went flying through the windshield, the light pole came down across the hood of the car, landing on her head. Onlookers, who stood by helplessly, said they heard blood curdling screams as Pam lie pinned beneath the pole.

Mourners could not help but question how the boyfriend escaped with only a broken nose, while Pam was dead. It seemed so unfair, so senseless. And it was. Had Pam been wearing a seatbelt, she would very likely have walked away unscathed. While Pam's death was avoidable, not wearing a seatbelt was not a crime in 1983.

Stories like Pam's prompted Texas lawmakers to enact a law in 1985 requiring motorists to buckle up, because something as simple as a seatbelt can save a life.

Some might argue that Pam was simply at the wrong place at the wrong time and that disobedience caused her death. While that may be true, it is also true that all that stood between life and death for Pam were 14 inches of fabric - a seatbelt.

According to the Department of Transportation, Texas has the second highest number of fatalities, following Colorado. Texas streets and highways can be a dangerous place to drive. Yet, while more than 90 percent of motorists believe seatbelts can save lives, less than 14 percent actually wear them. What many are really saying is, "It won't happen to me." But according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one in every five U. S. motorists will be involved in a traffic accident this year. Approximately 35,000 will be fatal and more than half of them (17,000) would more likely live if they simply wore a seatbelt.

Each year, Texas Department of Transportation kicks off the "summer" season by launching the "Click It or Ticket" campaign in hopes of encouraging motorists to buckle up to save lives - their own and their loved ones.

The fine for not buckling up in Texas can be as much as \$200. The value of saving a life - priceless.

**Buckle up!
The life you save
might be your
own!**