

# Clearing Out a Clot to SAVE a LIFE

Earl Swingle and his wife had plans to go see a movie when Earl's deep vein thrombosis (DVT)—blood clots in the deep veins of his legs—nearly derailed more than their evening out.

Earl, a 62-year-old retiree from Springfield, had suffered from DVT for years. As he and his wife prepared to leave their home one evening in September 2010, Earl suddenly experienced painful leg swelling and a feeling of intense constriction in his chest. His wife called 911, and he was taken to Springfield Regional Medical Center.

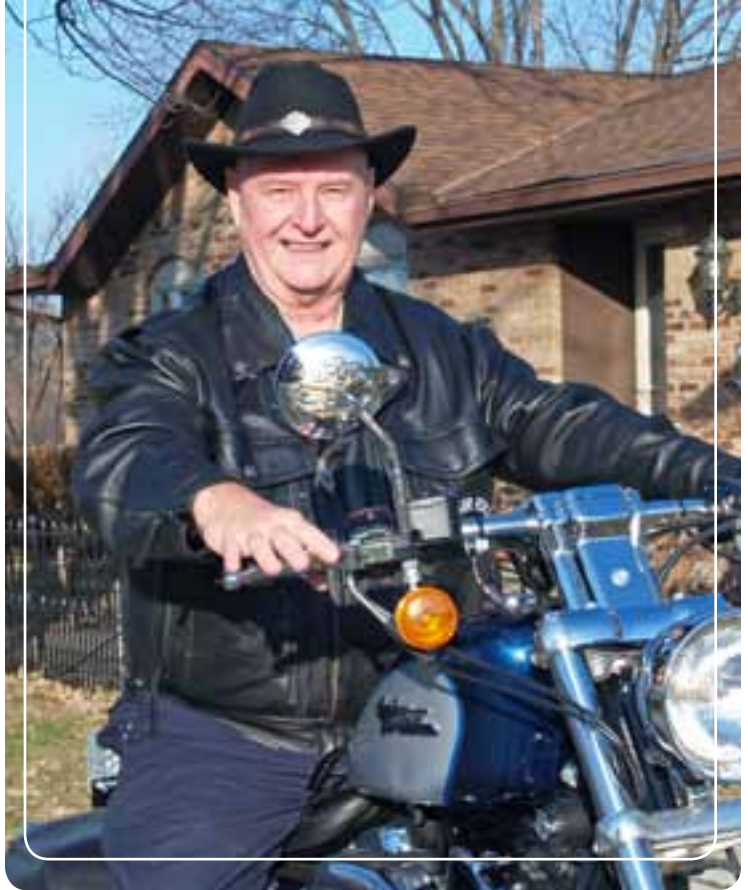
"Mr. Swingle had a life-threatening condition called pulmonary embolism, which is when a clot breaks off from a bigger clot in the legs and travels to the lungs," says Sumit Bhatla, MD, medical director of interventional radiology at Springfield Regional Medical Center. "His was one of the most severe cases I've seen. We placed an infusion catheter into the clot in Mr. Swingle's lung to deliver medication to break it up."

## Feeling Like a New Man

After spending more than a week in the intensive care unit at Springfield Regional Medical Center, Earl was transferred to another facility to receive treatment for his DVT. Today, he says he feels as if he's in his teens again.

"It's wonderful to take a deep breath without pain or walk without huffing," says Earl. "I was close to losing my life, but the physicians and staff at Springfield Regional Medical Center wouldn't let that happen."

*To learn more about the advantages of Springfield Regional Imaging Center, visit us online at [www.Community-Mercy.org](http://www.Community-Mercy.org), select "Services," and click on "Imaging."*



## Offering a Wide Range of Interventional Radiology Services

Interventional radiology is a diverse specialty that encompasses a host of treatments. Fortunately, Springfield Regional Imaging Center has the physician expertise and state-of-the-art technology to offer residents of Clark and Champaign counties many of the field's most advanced procedures.

Most individuals start their healing journey in our Interventional Radiology Clinic in the radiology department, where interventional radiologists evaluate patients before recommending a procedure. Some of the treatments available at the Imaging Center include:

- Biopsies
- Minimally invasive, incisionless procedures to treat blockages and aneurysms in arteries and veins
- Treatment of lung, liver, kidney, and bone tumors using heating and freezing technology
- Uterine artery embolization to treat uterine fibroids
- Venous ablation to treat varicose veins
- Vertebroplasty to treat fractures in spinal vertebrae
- X-ray-guided injections to treat chronic back pain

"Interventional radiology is an evolving field that complements the current trend in medicine of treating diseases without major surgery," says Sumit Bhatla, MD, medical director of interventional radiology at Springfield Regional Medical Center. "We're on the forefront of interventional radiology and are pleased to be able to offer advanced services to communities that didn't previously have access to them."