Acid reflux detection just got easier at Aurora BayCare

GREEN BAY – A new diagnostic tool is helping doctors at Aurora BayCare Medical Center better detect a pesky form of acid reflux – laryngopharyngeal reflux, or LPR.

Acid reflux occurs when acidic content in the stomach backs up into the esophagus, resulting in burning pain in the lower chest.

The Restech pH System helps detect LPR, which typically isn’t easily diagnosed. That’s because LPR’s symptoms – sore throat, chronic cough, sinusitis and throat clearing, among others – don’t immediately lend themselves to an acid reflux diagnosis. Those symptoms can be mistaken for other conditions such as asthma, allergies, laryngitis or upper-respiratory infection.

Typical symptoms of acid reflux, including the chronic version of the condition called gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, include heartburn and acid indigestion and may include other symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, excessive belching and abdominal pain.

If left untreated, acid reflux can lead to conditions that increase a person’s risk for developing esophageal cancer.

The Restech system can help determine whether a patient has acid backing up into the throat.

Here’s how it works: A small, soft probe tube is placed in the patient’s nose until its tip is positioned in the back of the throat. It doesn’t interfere with talking, eating or drinking. The probe is connected to a recording device, tracking the frequency and severity of reflux episodes during a 24-hour period. It sends those measurements wirelessly to the recording device. The doctor evaluates the data and can make an accurate diagnosis.

“With this technology in our practice, we can easily determine the frequency, severity and duration of acid levels reaching the throat,” says Dr. Daniel T. McKenna, a gastrointestinal surgeon with Aurora BayCare. “The data from the Restech system will help us deliver enhanced, personalized treatment plans for our patients with LPR symptoms.”

Treatment for LPR may include limiting acidic foods, caffeine, alcohol and carbonated beverages. People with LPR also may be advised to avoid late-night eating.

Call 920-288-8250 for more information.

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About Aurora BayCare
Aurora BayCare Medical Center is a 167-bed, full-service tertiary care hospital located at 2845 Greenbrier Road on Green Bay’s east side. It opened in September 2001 as a joint venture of Aurora Health Care and BayCare Clinic. Aurora BayCare is committed to creating a better way to provide high quality tertiary healthcare, the latest in medical technology and superior service.

About Aurora Health Care
Aurora Health Care is a not-for-profit Wisconsin-area health care provider and a national leader in efforts to improve health care quality. Aurora offers services at sites in more than 90 communities throughout eastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Aurora is Wisconsin’s most comprehensive health care provider and the state’s largest private employer. Aurora serves more than 1.2 million patients every year via a comprehensive network of facilities, services and providers, including 15 hospitals, 159 clinics, 70 pharmacies and 30,000 amazing Caregivers. As evidenced by more than 400 active clinical trials, Aurora is dedicated to delivering innovations to provide the best possible care today, and to define the best care for tomorrow. Get helpful health and wellness information via the Aurora MyHealth blog, our Facebook page, our Twitter account and our Pinterest account.

About BayCare Clinic
BayCare Clinic, baycare.net, is the largest physician-owned specialty-care clinic in northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. It is based in Green Bay, Wisconsin. BayCare Clinic offers expertise in more than 20 specialties, with more than 100 physicians serving in 16 area communities. BayCare Clinic is a joint partner in Aurora BayCare Medical Center, a 167-bed, full-service hospital. Follow BayCare Clinic on Facebook and Twitter.