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technician Fleta Dean on Wednesday at the 2009 Health Expo at the Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City Beach.

# health of it

For one winter visitor, the inaugural 2009 Health Expo held Wednesday at the Edgewater Conference Center was an eye-opener.

After participating in a vascular examination, the man was told he needed immediate medical attention. He was sent to Gulf Coast Medical Center after an AngioScreen detected an irregular

heartbeat.

The man was suffering from an atrial fibrillation, said Diane Paine, director of cardiology services at Gulf Coast Medical Center.

The condition was one of many being tested at the expo, which drew about 1,500 people.

Participants arrived early and formed a line that wrapped around the corner of a conference center ballroom.

Visitors were greeted with free gift bags and the opportunity to participate in a variety of health seminars and tests.

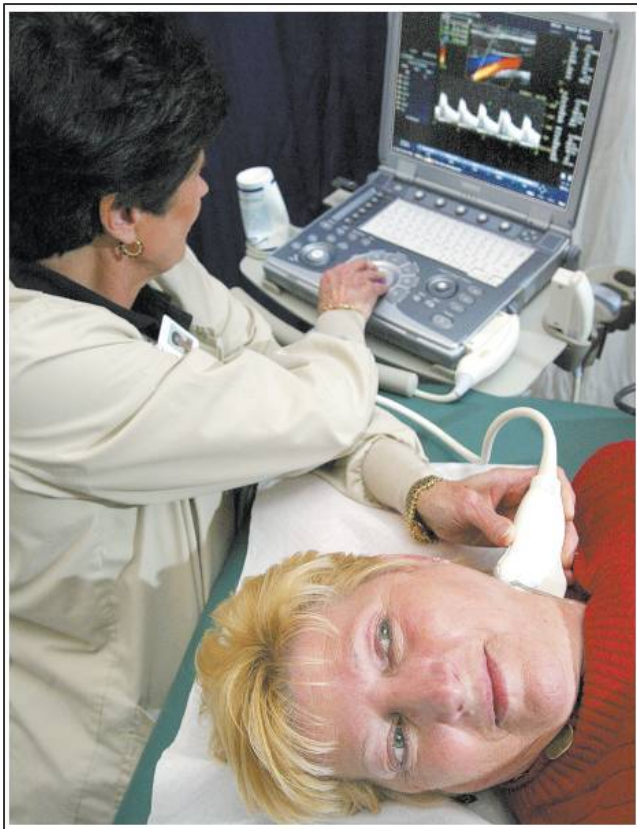
Gulf Coast Medical nurses and technicians ran 20 vascular screening tests.

Gulf Coast Medical's booth offered the \$65 vascular screenings that caught the problem. The non-invasive screening tests for information about a patient's circulation system and risk for heart disease or stroke.

Marsha Carlisle also was tested, and her only blip was a slightly elevated blood pressure.

"I feel much better knowing now," said Carlisle, community services representative for Home Instead Senior Care. "I'm sure I was going to have some blockages. I'm surprised about how easy it was."

The AngioScreen takes about 15 minutes and gives participants seven health indicators including their blood pressure, pulse, body mass index and aortic diameter.



Photos by  
ANDREW  
WARDLOW | The  
News Herald  
Marsha Carlisle  
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vascular  
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ultrasound  
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