

128 Robotically Assisted Heart Surgery

July 14, 2008

Intro: Every year thousands of Americans have operations to repair or replace faulty heart valves. For most of those people, it means open heart surgery. But now, doctors at Mayo Clinic are using robots to help them perform certain valve operations without opening the chest. There's less pain, shorter hospital stays and many people get back to work in a couple of weeks.

Video

Total running time 1:35

CG :16 to :20

Don Ginder

Had Robotically Assisted Surgery

Audio

"I CALL HIM JUMPING JACK. YOU JUST LET HIM OUT AND...HE'S JUST SO EXCITED."
DON GINDER SAYS A LABRADOR RETRIEVER'S SKILL IN THE FIELD IS ALL ABOUT INSTINCT.
"STAY. COME, JACK."
AND IT WAS INSTINCT [SOUND]
THAT DON SAYS PROMPTED HIM TO SEE A DOCTOR.
"I'D WALK TO THE SHED AND I'D GET A LITTLE WINDED."
DON HAD A FAULTY MITRAL HEART VALVE. TRADITIONAL SURGERY TO FIX IT MEANS OPEN HEART

SURGERY.

“YOU’RE OPENING YOUR CHEST UP
AND THAT LOOKED LIKE IT COULD
BE PAINFUL”

PLUS HE’D BE IN THE HOSPITAL
ABOUT A WEEK, AND OFF WORK
FOR UP TO THREE MONTHS. SO
INSTEAD, DON CHOSE TO HAVE
ROBOTICALLY ASSISTED,
MINIMALLY INVASIVE HEART
SURGERY AT MAYO CLINIC.

“THIS IS OPEN HEART SURGERY
THROUGH A CLOSED CHEST.”
SURGEONS RAKESH SURI AND
HAROLD BURKHART TEAM UP FOR
THE OPERATION. ONE IS AT THE
PATIENT’S BEDSIDE. THE OTHER
SITS AT THE ROBOT’S CONSOLE
ACROSS THE ROOM. THROUGH
TINY INCISIONS, THE BEDSIDE
SURGEON INSERTS THE ROBOTIC
CAMERA AND SURGICAL
INSTRUMENTS INTO THE

PATIENT'S BODY. THE OTHER SURGEON USES THIS 3-D CAMERA TO SEE INSIDE THE BODY. BY MANIPULATING THE HAND CONTROLS, HE CAN GUIDE THE ROBOTIC INSTRUMENTS TO REPAIR THE MITRAL VALVE.

CG 1:11 to 1:15
Rakesh Suri, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Surgeon

“THE MOVEMENTS OF THE ROBOT ARE ESSENTIALLY EXTENSION OF MY OWN ARMS.”

CG 1:16 to 1:18
Harold Burkhart, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Surgeon

“THE BIGGEST THING IS IT GETS PEOPLE BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE.”

AFTER THE OPERATION, DON LEFT THE HOSPITAL IN THREE DAYS.

“IT'S SO MUCH LESS STRESSFUL ON YOUR BODY.”

“STAY!”

WITHIN TWO WEEKS DON WAS BACK IN THE FIELD WITH JACK.

[DON: “COME”]

HIS HEART VALVE REPAIRED WITHOUT HAVING HIS CHEST OPENED. [DON: “GOOD BOY, JACK”]

FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS

Anchor tag:

Drs. Suri and Burkhart say this technology is being used for several different types of heart surgery.

For more information on robotically-assisted surgeries, visit our Website

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