Northwestern Medicine

International Health

Fall 2024

Breakthroughs in Clinical Care and Cutting-Edge Research

AWAKE KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION: A REVOLUTION IN RENAL CARE

Northwestern Medicine constantly innovates in transplant services to provide better care. In May 2024, Northwestern Medicine surgeons, Dr. Satish Nadig, Transplant Surgeon, Dr. Vinayak Rohan, Transplant Surgeon, and Dr. Vicente Garcia Tomas, Anesthesiologist, performed a kidney transplant where the patient was awake during the entire surgery. The surgery team completed the procedure in less than two hours. The patient felt no pain and *went home less than 24 hours after the surgery with an expedited discharge process without any narcotic pain medication*. Instead of standard general anesthesia, the care team used a spinal anesthesia injection. This approach may increase access to transplants for patients at high risk of complications from traditional anesthesia. It may also shorten hospital stays for transplant recipients. This patient who had been managing kidney issues due to Crohn's disease, found a donor in his longtime friend, and underwent the transplant operation. This pioneering surgical approach is anticipated to significantly advance the field of transplantation. To read more, please click **here**.

DREAM PROGRAM: LEADING THE WAY

The Northwestern Medicine DREAM (Double lung transplant Registry Aimed for lung-limited Malignancies) Program offers double lung transplants to eligible patients with lung cancer that is unresponsive to treatment or who have no other viable treatment options. Northwestern Medicine is the only hospital in the ENTIRE WORLD offering lung transplant for lung cancer. This first-of-its-kind program is underpinned by the latest advances in thoracic surgery, thoracic cancer care, transplantation, pulmonology, multidisciplinary care, and state-of-the-art cancer care. At its core is a groundbreaking surgical technique – double lung transplantation – designed to minimize the risk of cancer recurrence and reduce postoperative complications. The primary objective of the procedure is to prevent the dissemination of cancer cells to the transplanted donor lungs. The DREAM Program commits to providing exceptional, patient-centered care through a multidisciplinary team of experts from various specialties. With its innovative surgical methods, advanced cancer surveillance, and expert team, the program is redefining double lung transplantations to prioritize enhancing patients' quality of life and postsurgical outcomes. To

CARDIAC SURGERY GROWTH AND WORLD-CLASS MITRAL VALVE PROGRAM

The Northwestern Medicine Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute had a 32% increase in cardiac surgeries at Northwestern Memorial Hospital over the past year. Additionally, as one of the highest volume and most experienced transcatheter mitral valve programs in the nation, Northwestern Medicine continues to expand its Transcatheter Heart Valve Program by offering a wide array of commercially available and clinical trial options to treat the mitral valve, including MitraClip. To watch the videos about Cardiac Surgery Growth by Dr. Douglas Johnston, Chief of Cardiac Surgery, please click **here**, and about Developing a World Class Mitral Valve program by Dr. Patrick McCarthy, Executive Director of Northwestern Medicine's Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute, and Dr. Kevin Hodges, a Northwestern Medicine Cardiac Surgeon and the Director of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Cardiac Surgery, please click **here.**

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MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMWORK APPROACH TO SAVE A PATIENT'S LIFE

A groundbreaking procedure helped a patient regain her life after a brain hemorrhage threatened to take it away. The patient had a rare condition called arteriovenous malformation (AVM), which is an abnormal tangle of blood vessels in the brain. Traditional surgery was not an option due to the location of the AVM, so the medical team had to think of a different plan. They decided to approach the AVM from a vein, against the direction of blood flow, but this required stopping the patient's heart and blood flow multiple times during the procedure. The medical team at Northwestern Medicine, including Dr. Babak Jahromi, the Vice Chair of Neurological Surgery, Dr. Michael Hurley, Neurointerventional Radiologist, Dr. Bradley Knight, Cardiac Electrophysiologist, and Dr. Ljuba Stojiljkovic, Anesthesiologist, induced deep anesthesia to protect the patient's brain, and her heart was stopped 12 times during the surgery. Despite the risks and intensity of the procedure, it was successful, and the patient is grateful for being given a second chance at life. To read more about the patient's story, please click **here**.

FROM PERSONALIZED PATIENT CARE TO GLOBAL HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIPS, ONE OF THE TOP-RANKED HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE U.S. IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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