

## ***H07 Domino Liver Transplant***

February 2007

Intro: This is a story of a life-saving form of recycling. It's about two men who've never met, but who have something very personal in common. One of them needed a new heart and liver because of a disease called familial amyloidosis. When it came time for the transplant he gave his diseased liver to someone else. How can a liver that doesn't work for one man be the gift of life for another? Let's go to Mayo Clinic to find out.

### **Video**

**Total running time 1:23**

**Joe Brassell**

**To Surgery video**

**To animation**

### **Audio**

JOE BRASSELL [BRAH-ZELL] SAYS

THERE'S STILL LIFE IN THIS 37

PLYMOUTH.

"MY IDEA IS TO TAKE THE CAR

APART, PUT IT BACK TOGETHER

AGAIN."

JOE'S SAYS HE'S BEEN TAKEN

APART AND PUT BACK TOGETHER

TOO. AND HE'S GOT SOME

RECYLCED PARTS OF HIS OWN. HE

HAD HIS HEART AND LIVER

TRANSPLANTED AT MAYO CLINIC

BECAUSE OF AN INHERITED

DISEASE CALLED FAMILIAL

AMYLOIDOSIS. IT CAUSED HIS

LIVER TO PRODUCE AN ABNORMAL

**Standup**  
**Vivien Williams**  
**Reporting**

**To surgery video**  
**(Charles Rosen, M,D, in surgery)**

**Joe Brassell**  
**Had Domino Transplant**

PROTEIN CALLED AMYLOID. THIS  
PROTEIN BUILDS UP IN OTHER  
PARTS OF THE BODY, ESPECIALLY  
IN THE HEART, CAUSING  
PERMANENT DAMAGE. BECAUSE IT  
TAKES 30 OR MORE YEARS FOR  
THE AMYLOID PROTEINS TO  
DAMAGE OTHER ORGANS, JOE'S  
LIVER COULD BE TRANSPLANTED,  
OR RECLYCLED, INTO SOMEONE  
ELSE – SOMEONE OVER 50 WHO  
WON'T LIKELY EXPERIENCE  
NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE  
PROTEIN. IT'S CALLED A DOMINO  
TRANSPLANT. JOE REMEMBERS  
HOW SURGEON CHARLES ROSEN  
**[ROW-ZEN]** TOLD HIM.  
“THEY'RE CONSIDERING POSSIBLY  
GIVING THIS TO ANOTHER  
PERSON, AND HOW DO YOU FEEL  
ABOUT THAT? AND I SAID, 'IF I CAN  
HELP SOMEONE ELSE, GREAT.'”  
THAT SOMEONE WAS THOMAS

**Thomas Needham**  
**Has Joe's Liver**

NEEDHAM [**NEED-HAM**].

"THEY SAID YOU HAVE TWO  
WEEKS TO LIVE. AND I THOUGHT,  
OH MAN, THAT'S NOT GOOD."  
JOE'S LIVER GAVE THOMAS A  
CHANCE AT LIFE.

**Thomas Needham**

"EVERY DAY YOU GET UP IS A  
GIFT."  
A GIFT THOMAS SHARES WITH A  
MAN HE'S NEVER MET.

**Joe Brassell (59:03)**

"LET'S SEE IF SHE GOES."  
FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN  
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Joe says he and Thomas have not met yet. But he hopes to do so soon.  
Thousands of people die each year waiting for transplants because there are not  
enough donor organs available. To learn more about organ donation, transplantation or  
the treatment of amyloidosis, visit our Website at...**[STATIONS: Per the licensing  
agreement, please provide a link from your station's website to  
<http://www.mayoclinic.org> or voice tag "mayoclinic.org" for more information.]**

