

H18 Pectus Repair

April 2007

Intro: One out of every 400 babies is born with a condition called pectus. That's when your chest wall doesn't grow properly and becomes concave. Some cases are mild – a matter of cosmetics. But others may cause problems with the heart or lungs because there's not enough room for them to function. Often pectus cases are repaired in the teen years. But the man you're about to meet had the operation much later.

Video

Total running time 1:33

Patrick Marrs

Patrick Marrs

Audio

“THIS IS IN THE MOUNTAINS ABOVE BRECKENRIDGE. CLOSE TO 12-THOUSAND FEET ELEVATION”
THE PICTURES OF HIS GRANDSON'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEDDING BRING BACK MIXED EMOTIONS FOR PATRICK MARRS.
“THAT'S LUKE AND DEBBIE GETTING MARRIED.”
FOND THOUGHTS OF THE WEDDING COUPLE MINGLE WITH MEMORIES OF BEING VERY SICK.
“I WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY BREATHING. GASPING FOR BREATH BASICALLY”
PATRICK THOUGHT IT WAS THE

ELEVATION. THE AIR UP THERE IS THIN. BUT HIS BREATHING PROBLEMS WERE ACTUALLY CAUSED BY A CONDITION HE'S HAD SINCE BIRTH. IT'S CALLED PECTUS.

Dawn Jaroszewski, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Surgeon

“BASICALLY PATIENTS ARE BORN WITH THE TENDENCY TO NOT GROW THEIR CHEST WALL CORRECTLY.”

Standup
Vivien Williams
Reporting

DR. DAWN JAROSZEWSKI [**JAIR-OH-ZEW-SKI**] SAYS PECTUS EXCAVATUM IS THOUGHT TO BE THE RESULT OF AN OVER GROWTH OF CARTILAGE THAT PUSHES THE RIBS AND STERNUM INWARD. YOUR CHEST BECOMES CONCAVE INSTEAD OF ROUNDED.

Dawn Jaroszewski, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Surgeon

“IN MR. MARR'S CASE IT DROPS DOWN INSIDE AND IT IS ACTUALLY PRESSING ON THE HEART.” THAT PRESSURE PREVENTED PATRICK'S HEART FROM PUMPING

Dawn Jaroszewski, M.D
Mayo Clinic Surgeon

Animation

Patrick Marrs

VO: Patrick with pictures

PROPERLY.

“EARLIER HIS HEART WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR THAT PRESSURE. BUT AS HE GOT OLDER, THE HEART GREW WEAKER AND HE JUST COULDN’T TOLERATE THAT EXTRA STRESS.”

TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM DR. JAROSZEWSKI REMOVED THE SECTIONS OF CARTILAGE THAT WERE PUSHING THE RIBS AND STERNUM IN. THEN SHE LIFTED THE STERNUM OFF THE HEART AND FIXED IT IN PLACE. ALLOWING ENOUGH ROOM FOR PATRICK’S HEART TO PUMP NORMALLY.

“THAT’S MY SON, GRANDSON AND ME BEFORE THE WEDDING.”

NOW PATRICK’S READY TO HEAD BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS TO ENJOY THE SCENERY HE MISSED AT THE WEDDING.

FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN

WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Patrick had surgery when he was in his 70's because he never had symptoms before. Dr. Jaroszewski says some patients start having symptoms in early adolescence and need the repair. Other choose to have the operation for cosmetic reasons and to hopefully prevent symptoms from developing later in life. For more information on pectus repair, 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.]**