

## *H23 Freezing Kidney Tumors*

June 2007

Intro: For this year, 2007, the National Cancer Institute estimates that more than 50-thousand people will be diagnosed with kidney cancer. Many will have surgery to remove the tumors. But some people are not able to have an operation because of other medical problems. In that case doctors at Mayo Clinic offer another, less-invasive option. It's called cryoablation.

### **Video**

**Total Running time 1:28**

**Thomas Atwell, M.D.**

**Bradley Leibovich, M.D.**  
**Mayo Clinic Urologist**

**To animation**

### **Audio**

IN THIS PROCEDURE ROOM AT  
MAYO CLINIC, A TEAM OF EXPERTS  
IS DESTROYING A CANCEROUS  
KIDNEY TUMOR.

“OK PLEASE MOVE HIM IN.”  
BUT INSTEAD OF USING SCALPELS  
TO REMOVE THE TUMOR, THESE  
DOCTORS ARE ARMED WITH CT  
SCANS, NEEDLES AND ICE. IT'S  
CALLED CRYOABLATION.

“CRYOABLATION IS A PROCEDURE  
WHERE A PATIENT WITH A MASS IN  
THE KIDNEY IS TREATED BY  
STICKING A NEEDLE THROUGH  
THEIR SIDE UNDER ULTRASOUND,  
CT OR MRI GUIDANCE, AND THE

TIP OF THE NEEDLE IS MADE VERY COLD.”

**Continue animation**

UROLOGIST DR. BRADLEY LEIBOVICH SAYS THE FREEZING FORMS AN ICE BALL WHICH IS THEN QUICKLY THAWED AND FROZEN AGAIN.

**Bradley Leibovich, M.D.  
Animation ends**

“THE ACT OF FREEZING AND THAWING DESTROYS THE TISSUES.”

**Thomas Atwell, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic Radiologist**

“YOU CAN SEE IT HERE. THE DARKER AREA IS THE ICE. THE GREY AREA IS THE TUMOR.”  
RADIOLOGIST DR. THOMAS ATWELL SAYS WITHIN AN HOUR OR SO THE ENTIRE GREY AREA WILL BE DARK. THE TUMOR WILL HAVE BEEN DESTROYED WITH VERY LITTLE RISK TO THE PATIENT.

**Bradley Leibovich, M.D. (7:20)  
Mayo Clinic Urologist**

“RISKS FROM CRYOSURGERY ARE VERY MINIMAL WHICH IS WHY WE TEND TO UTILIZE IT FOR PATIENTS WHO CANNOT UNDERGO THE

STRESS OF A SURGICAL  
PROCEDURE.”  
SURGERY IS USUALLY THE BEST  
OPTION FOR REMOVING KIDNEY  
TUMORS BECAUSE WITH  
CRYOABLATION THERE IS A SMALL  
RISK OF THE CANCER COMING  
BACK. BUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE  
NOT ABLE TO HAVE AN  
OPERATION, CRYOABLATION  
OFFERS ANOTHER OPTION. FOR  
MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN  
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

After the procedure, patients go home with a band-aid as the only reminder.  
Dr. Leibovich and Dr. Atwell have studied the effects of cryoablation on both  
small and large renal masses.  
There are three options for treating kidney tumors: watchful waiting, surgery or  
ablation. For more information, visit our Website at...