

H53 Cholesterol Absorbing Machine

To air week of December 31, 2007

Intro: Heart disease is the number one killer in North America. Most of us know that high cholesterol is a major risk factor. Exercise, eating right and medications can help get your cholesterol numbers down. But for some people, none of those things work. Doctors at Mayo Clinic say those people may benefit from a new cholesterol absorbing machine that removes bad cholesterol from your blood.

Video

Total running time 1:30

Audio

“I’VE ALWAYS LIKED
MOTORCYCLES AND I’VE JUST
BEEN RIDING THEM AS LONG AS I
CAN REMEMBER.”
BUT MARTIN HAD TO PUT THE
BRAKES ON RIDING WHEN HE HAD
A QUADRUPLE BYPASS. HIS
ARTERIES WERE BECOMING
BLOCKED BECAUSE OF
DANGEROUSLY HIGH
CHOLESTEROL LEVELS.

Martin O’Hara

“THE HIGHEST I’VE EVER SEEN
THEM WAS 380.”
MARTIN TRIED HARD TO BRING
THOSE NUMBERS DOWN. HE WAS
FIT – HE EXERCISED, ATE RIGHT,

AND TOOK CHOLESTEROL
LOWERING MEDICATION.

Marin O'Hara

“STILL MY CHOLESTEROL WAS
REALLY HIGH.”

Standup

Vivien Williams

Reporting

YOU SEE, USUALLY YOUR LIVER
ABSORBS CHOLESTEROL AND
STORES IT, REDUCING LEVELS OF
BAD CHOLESTEROL, OR LDL, IN
YOUR BLOOD TO WHERE
LIFESTYLE CHANGES OR
MEDICATIONS CAN MANAGE THEM.

MARTIN'S LIVER CAN'T DO THAT.

Sergio Torloni, M.D.

Mayo Clinic

“THE LDL HAS NO WHERE TO GO
BUT TO RECIRCULATE.”

DR. SERGIO TORLONI SAYS THIS
MAKES MARTIN'S RISK OF
BLOCKED ARTERIES VERY, VERY
HIGH. BUT THANKFULLY A
MACHINE THAT ABSORBS BAD
CHOLESTEROL FROM YOUR
BLOOD IS HELPING MARTIN STAY
HEART HEALTHY.

Sergio Torloni, M.D.

“IT'S SIMILAR TO DIALYSIS.”

Begin animation

THE PATIENT'S BLOOD IS SEPARATED BY A FILTER INTO PLASMA AND OTHER COMPONENTS. THE MACHINE ABSORBS THE BAD CHOLESTEROL FROM THE PLASMA. THEN THE PLASMA AND OTHER COMPONENTS ARE MIXED TOGETHER AND PUT BACK IN THE BODY.

Martin O'Hara Has High Cholesterol

"AFTER A PROCEDURE MY LEVELS ARE REALLY LOW. RIGHT WHERE THEY OUGHT TO BE."
DOWN TO 140. MARTIN'S BLOOD GETS FILTERED ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS. A SMALL INCONVENIENCE FOR LIFE.
FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Dr. Torloni says this procedure is not right for all patients with high cholesterol. It is almost exclusively used for patients who have a genetic condition (familial hypercholesterolemia) with LDL receptor deficiency. It can also be used for those whose levels are above 200 even though they have tried medications to lower them. Pre-approval from the insurance companies is needed. For more information, visit our [\[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.]

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