

## ***115 Treating GI Bleed***

To air week of April 14, 2008

Intro: Imagine this: You find out you're bleeding internally and the only way to stop it is a big operation. Then your doctor tells you it's so risky you might not make it off the table. That's what the man you're about to meet faced until doctors at Mayo Clinic tried a less-invasive, experimental procedure. The technology allows doctors to see and reach inside the body where they couldn't before.

Video

**Total running time 1:33**

**Michael Levy, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic**

**Audio**

"IT WAS HIGH RISK. WE'D NEVER  
DONE IT BEFORE."  
  
IN A PROCEDURE ROOM LIKE THIS,  
MAYO CLINIC DR. MICHAEL LEVY  
AND HIS TEAM USED TWO  
STANDARD TECHNOLOGIES IN A  
NEW WAY TO STOP BILL JANECEK  
FROM BLEEDING TO DEATH.  
  
YOU SEE, CHRONIC PANCREATITIS  
CAUSED A BALLOONING OF BLOOD  
IN AN ABNORMAL VESSEL ON  
BILL'S PANCREAS.  
  
"YOU CAN SEE THE BLOOD FLOW  
IN THE PSEUDO-ANEURYSM  
HERE."

**Bill Janecek**  
**Had endoscopic ultrasound**  
**treatment**

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

USUALLY PATIENTS LIKE BILL GO TO SURGERY, BUT HE WAS TOO SICK. IF HE DID HAVE THE OPERATION AND LIVE THROUGH IT, LIFE COULD BE VERY DIFFERENT.

“I’LL HAVE TO HAVE A FEEDING TUBE FOR A WHILE AND MAYBE AT ONE TIME I CAN EAT SOMETHING SOFT ALONG WITH MY GALLON JUG OF LIQUIDS FOR THE DAY. THAT ISN’T REALLY LIVING. I DON’T WANT TO DO THAT.”

SO BILL AGREED TO BE THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO HAVE A PANCREATIC PSEUDO-ANEURYSM TREATED WITH ULTRASOUND-GUIDED ENDOSCOPY. THE TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS DOCTORS TO REACH AREAS OF THE DIGESTIVE TRACT YOU CAN’T SEE WITH A TRADITIONAL SCOPE. IN BILL’S CASE THE STOMACH WALL WOULD HAVE BEEN A BARRIER.

**Michael Levy, M.D.**  
**Mayo Clinic**

**animation**

“WHAT’S DIFFERENT ABOUT  
ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND IS  
THAT IT HAS AN ULTRASOUND ON  
THE TIP THAT ALLOWS US TO  
LOOK NOT ONLY AT THE WALL,  
BUT THROUGH THE WALL TO SEE  
THE VESSEL THAT’S BLEEDING.”

DURING THE PROCEDURE DR.  
LEVY ADVANCED AN ENDOSCOPE  
INTO THE STOMACH. USING  
ULTRASOUND TO GUIDE HIM, HE  
DIRECTED A NEEDLE INTO THE  
LEAKING VESSEL. THERE HE  
INJECTED 99% ALCOHOL WHICH  
DESTROYED THE VESSEL AND  
STOPPED THE BLEEDING.

**Bill Janecek**

“I’M HAVING A REUBEN.”  
AND NOW BILL IS LIVING A FULL  
LIFE. AND CAN ENJOY AN  
AFTERNOON LUNCH WITH HIS  
DAUGHTERS. FOR MEDICAL EDGE,  
I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Since Bill's procedure, Dr. Levy has used this technology to help other patients with similar conditions. Endoscopic ultrasound is also used to treat other digestive problems such as bleeding ulcers. It is also used to diagnose and stage some cancers. For more information, 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.]**