

136 Partial Kidney Removal

September 8, 2008

Intro: Imagine going to the doctor for a routine visit and finding out you have kidney cancer. That's what happened to the man you're about to meet. Treatment for kidney tumors has generally meant removal of the entire kidney. That's not always the case anymore. Doctors at Mayo Clinic say that removing only the tumor and saving the rest of the kidney may mean a healthier life for people like Joe Jacques.

Video

Total running time 1:29

Audio

"I GOT THE CALL HERE AT WORK SAYING THAT IT DEFINITELY WAS A TUMOR AND MORE THAN LIKELY IT WAS CANCEROUS AND THE KIDNEY HAD TO COME OUT."

CABLE AND WIRE SALESMAN JOE JACQUES SAYS HEARING THAT NEWS WAS NOT EASY.

Joe Jacques

"THEY SAID IT WAS ABOUT THE SIZE OF A GOLF BALL. PROBABLY GROWING FOR ABOUT 5 YEARS."

BECAUSE JOE'S TUMOR WAS SMALL AND HAD NOT SPREAD, SURGERY WAS THE BEST TREATMENT OPTION.

TRADITIONALLY THAT WOULD MEAN REMOVING THE ENTIRE

KIDNEY. BUT RESEARCH AT MAYO CLINIC SHOWS THAT BY REMOVING ONLY THE TUMOR AND SPARING THE REST OF THE KIDNEY, MANY PATIENTS DO BETTER LONG-TERM.

Michael Blute, M.D.
Mayo Clinic urologist

“A PATIENT WITH KIDNEY CANCER, VERY COMMONLY WILL HAVE BORDERLINE RENAL FUNCTION.”

Standup
Vivien Williams
Reporting

DR. MICHAEL BLUTE SAYS THAT MEANS THESE PEOPLE ARE AT RISK OF DEVELOPING CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ONLY HAVE ONE KIDNEY. BUT SPARING AS MUCH KIDNEY AS POSSIBLE DURING SURGERY HELPS PREVENT CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE. DURING THE PROCEDURE, DR. BLUTE USES A DEVICE DEVELOPED AT MAYO CLINIC TO STOP BLOOD FROM FLOWING TO THE PART OF THE

KIDNEY WHERE THE TUMOR IS
LOCATED. THEN HE REMOVES
ONLY THE TUMOR AND
SURROUNDING TISSUE, SPARING
THE REST OF THE KIDNEY. DR.
BLUTE SAYS PARTIAL-KIDNEY
REMOVAL ACCOMPLISHED TWO
THINGS FOR JOE JACQUES.

Michael Blute, M.D.
Mayo Clinic urologist

“IT HOPEFULLY ERADICATED HIS
CANCER, BUT IT ALSO GAVE HIM
AN ADVANTAGE IN MAINTAINING
RENAL FUNCTION OVER THE LONG
TERM.”

AND WITH THAT NEWS, JOE IS
LOOKING FORWARD TO A
HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND
HAPPY LIFE.

“HEY IZZY, HOW ARE YOU DOING?”
FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Dr. Blute says partial-kidney removal is the best option for many patients with small kidney tumors. However, for people with large tumors or with cancer that’s spread, this kidney-sparing operation may not be an option.

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