
Mayo Clinic Medical Edge

New ALS Device

1:00

Log

Audio

Intro with music	GIVING YOU THE EDGE ON HEALTHY LIVING, HERE'S MAYO CLINIC'S MEDICAL EDGE.
	ERNIE LORENZ LIVES WITH ALS, LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE. THE CONDITION WEAKENS ERNIE'S MUSCLES AND SLOWLY ROBS HIM OF THE USE OF HIS HANDS, ARMS, AND LEGS.
Ernie Lorenz, Patient	"THE SCARIEST THING IS BREATHING."
	WHEN ALS WEAKENS THE DIAPHRAGM YOUR LUNGS DON'T FILL UP WITH AIR. YOU CAN'T BREATHE WELL. MANY PATIENTS EVENTUALLY NEED A VENTILATOR. MAYO CLINIC DR. KEVIN BOYLAN IS PART OF A TEAM STUDYING A DEVICE THAT MAY HELP PEOPLE

	LIKE ERNIE BREATHE EASIER AND STAY OFF A VENTILATOR LONGER.
Kevin Boylan, M.D.	“WHAT WE REFER TO IT AS DOING, IS CONDITIONING THE MUSCLE.”
	SURGEONS ATTACH ELECTRICAL WIRES TO THE DIAPHRAGM. THESE WIRES EXTEND THROUGH THE SKIN TO AN ELECTRONIC STIMULATION DEVICE. WHEN IT’S TURNED ON, THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT CONTRACTS THE DIAPHRAGM, GIVING IT A WORK OUT. THE GOAL IS TO MAKE IT STRONGER SO IT CAN FUNCTION BETTER.
	THE DEVICE SEEMS TO WORK FOR ERNIE. AND IF THE STUDY PROVES POSITIVE, OTHERS WITH ALS MAY BENEFIT TOO.
	FOR MORE INFORMATION, TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT MAYOCLINIC.ORG . I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.