

Deteriorating heart patient thought he was out of options until new radiation therapy gave him hope

Radiation oncologists usually avoid the heart, but an experimental treatment gives patients with severe heart damage a new option

Orlando Health

Produced by: MediaSource www.mediasourcetv.com	To download broadcast-quality video and other multimedia elements: https://bit.ly/3taHQ2D
Package Length: 1:45	Content provided by: Orlando Health

NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	A TREATMENT USUALLY USED TO TREAT CANCER IS GIVING PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HEART DISEASE NEW HOPE. DETAILS, COMING UP.
ANCHOR LEAD	HEART DISEASE CAN BE A LONG AND PAINFUL ILLNESS, AND THE MORE DAMAGE THERE IS TO THE HEART, THE FEWER OPTIONS PATIENTS HAVE FOR TREATMENT. BUT A NEW EMERGING TREATMENT HAS HELPED PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HEART DISEASE NOT JUST LIVE LONGER, BUT LIVE WELL. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON A SURPRISING ADVANCEMENT THAT IS USUALLY USED TO TREAT CANCER THAT HAS GIVEN NEW HOPE TO HEART PATIENTS.
(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: Orlando Health :00 - :03 Shots of Dr. Filart in follow up appointment with Dewey	(Nats - "Hi, Mr. Caldwell!" "How ya doing?" clip 672) :02 DOCTOR ROLAND FILART (fih-LART) WAS THRILLED TO SEE DEWEY CALDWELL AT HIS FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT. :04 <i>"I've seen Mr. Caldwell sort of deteriorate to the point where he was really bed bound and that really hurt. And so to see him today, I wanted to hug him."</i> :08
CG: Roland Filart Orlando Health Heart and Vascular Institute Shots of Dr. Filart in follow up appointment with Dewey	AS THE DAMAGE TO DEWEY'S HEART WORSENERD IN RECENT YEARS, HE SUFFERED OVER TWO DOZEN HEART ATTACKS. DOCTOR FILART DID ALL HE COULD, AND WHEN MEDICATIONS WERE NO LONGER EFFECTIVE, HE IMPLANTED A DEFIBRILLATOR THAT SHOCKED DEWEY'S HEART WHEN IT FELL OUT OF A REGULAR RHYTHM. :13
CG: Dewey Caldwell Heart patient	<i>"I feared one more zap with a defibrillator, I might not make it up then."</i> :02

Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>



<p>Shots of Dewey and his wife walking and sitting down at table</p>	<p>DEWEY AND HIS WIFE WERE PLANNING TO DISCONTINUE TREATMENT WHEN DOCTOR FILART APPROACHED THEM WITH AN EXPERIMENTAL OPTION¹. THE TREATMENT IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE AND THE CANCER INSTITUTE AT ORLANDO HEALTH, AND INVOLVES RADIATION THERAPY, SOMETHING THAT SEEMED SOMEWHAT COUNTERINTUITIVE. :15</p>
<p>CG: Justin Rineer, MD Orlando Health Cancer Institute</p>	<p><i>“The heart is actually something that we try pretty hard not to treat.” :03</i></p>
<p>Shot of radiation therapy</p>	<p>BUT DOCTORS EMPLOYED A PRECISE TYPE OF RADIATION² AND CARDIAC MAPPING TO TREAT THE EXACT PART OF THE HEART THAT IS DISRUPTING IT’S ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT – DOWN TO THE MILLIMETER. :08</p>
<p>CG: Luis Garcia, MD Orlando Health Heart and Vascular Institute</p>	<p><i>“We spend a lot of our time with the maps. Where’s this organ? Where’s this organ? How close is it to another area? What’s the likelihood of having injury?” :08</i></p>
<p>Shots of radiation team monitoring therapy session Shot of therapy</p>	<p>THE CONCEPT IS SIMILAR TO A HEART ABLATION, BUT IS COMPLETELY NON-INVASIVE, MAKING IT AN OPTION FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE TOO WEAK OR SICK TO UNDERGO SURGERY. :08</p>
<p>Dr. Rineer (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“It was kind of anticlimactic (laughs), right? He comes in, he lays down, he just stays still for about 30 minutes, this machine’s moving around him, then he gets up and goes on with his day.” :10</i></p>
<p>Shots of Dewey and his wife talking Photo of Dewey cutting the grass</p>	<p>IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED DEWEY’S ENERGY INCREASED AND HIS DEFIBRILLATOR WAS DEPLOYED MUCH LESS OFTEN, ALLOWING HIM TO RETURN TO ACTIVITIES HE NEVER THOUGHT HE’D DO AGAIN. :08</p>
<p>Dewey Caldwell (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“Dr. Filart last week told me, no lawn mowing. I tried. (laughs)” :08</i></p>
<p>Dr. Filart (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“I said, ‘Really?’ I said, ‘Why? You’ve not cut the grass in 10 years, why do you want to cut the grass?’ And he says, ‘Because I feel good. I haven’t done it. I want to try it.’” :08</i></p>
<p>Shot of Dewey and Dr. Filart talking in exam (PACKAGE END) ----- ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>AT ORLANDO HEALTH, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :02</p> <hr/> <p>EXPERTS STRESS THAT THIS RADIATION</p>

Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>

	<p>TREATMENT FOR HEART ARRHYTHMIAS IS STILL EXPERIMENTAL AND RESEARCHERS STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT ITS LONG-TERM EFFECTS. BUT FOR PATIENTS LIKE DEWEY, IT'S NOT JUST GIVEN THEM MORE TIME, BUT A MUCH BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.</p>
--	---

SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>Radiologists very rarely, if ever, treat heart patients, but doctors at @OrlandoHealth collaborated on an experimental radiation therapy that is giving time and quality of life back to patients with advanced heart disease. https://bit.ly/3taHQ2D</p> <hr/> <p>Radiologists usually avoid exposing the heart to x-ray beams at all costs, but an experimental treatment at Orlando Health uses cardiac mapping and very precise radiation, targeted down to the millimeter, to treat patients with advanced heart disease who have few, if any, options for treatment. While more research is needed, patients treated with this type of radiation have been given more time and a dramatically better quality of life. https://bit.ly/3taHQ2D</p>
---	---

EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Roland Filart, MD Orlando Health Heart and Vascular Institute</p>	<p>Filart describes how easy the treatment was for Dewey: <i>"He had his 15 minutes of radiation. And then afterwards we all came in thinking, 'How you feel?' And he says, 'Fine.' And then he gets up and then walks off the table and then walks back into the wheelchair and he says, 'Okay, now what?' I said, 'That's your therapy.'"</i>:14</p> <p>Filart says, so far, the radiation does not seem to have adverse effects on the rest of the heart: <i>"This is experimental; this is still compassionate use. But in the studies that have been done so far, when the radiation beam is really targeted just to one diseased area, it doesn't seem to affect the rest of the heart."</i> :15</p> <p>Filart explains how precise the radiation beam is: <i>"It's a very fine beam and it's really put down to the millimeter on a three dimensional level. So up, down, right, left and even thickness, we're talking millimeter modulations in their therapy and that's how good they can get with that beam now."</i> :17</p> <p>Filart explains how Dewey's condition deteriorated: <i>"Every episode, he would just get weaker and weaker. He got to the point where just getting up out of bed was an ordeal in terms of being able to walk to the bathroom and not fearing going into ventricular tachycardia."</i> :14</p>
---	--

Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>

CG: Justin Rineer, MD
Orlando Health Cancer Institute

Rineer explains what happens during the radiation therapy:
“All of the treatment is actually delivered with x-rays. So the machine behind me kinda rotates around the patient and delivers an x-ray from the machine head and we just make sure that it’s focused, targeted directly on the spot in the heart that’s causing the arrhythmia.” :20

Rineer explains how the collaboration with Dr. Filart came about:

“We brought up this technology and that this could be something that could be useful for a select number of our patients and that’s when he mentioned Mr. Caldwell and said, ‘Yeah, I have a guy. He’s running out of options. This really could be a, a great choice for him to, to try to, to bring him out of this spiral that he’s in.’” :16

Rineer says this therapy can be life-changing for some patients:

“We’re doing radiation in a place that we usually try to avoid, and so there’s a lot of questions that we still have to answer, but for select patients that are really out of other treatment options, I think that this is a really valid possibility for treatment for them and one that can really be life-changing for the right patient.” :19

Garcia explains the importance of precise heart mapping:

“That’s where we spend a lot of our time with the maps. Where’s this organ? Where’s this organ? How close is it to another area? What’s the likelihood of having injury? Would there be risk? Would there be inflammation? Could there be damage or inflammation to other organs?” :14

Garcia says treating advanced patients is difficult but rewarding:

“So to be able to make someone’s quality of life better and be able to have people, patients and just the people we serve tolerate our treatments and therapies and be able to have success and not come back with recurrent problems and just do well is really important – not easy in patients like him and, unfortunately, he’s not alone.” :18

Garcia explains how collaboration advances care:

“We’re able to do something a little bit differently than we did before. And, you know, having each other as support and helping each other sort of guide what we do next and, you know, maybe this spot, maybe that spot, you know, why we would try this. Why we wouldn’t do that. That really helps grow an institution and grows medical care.” :18

CG: Luis Garcia, MD
Orlando Health Heart and Vascular Institute

CG: Dewey Caldwell
Heart patient

Dewey describes how difficult defibrillator shocks are:

“The defibrillator will go off and it hurts. It really does. It’s knocked me down the floor and knocked me against the wall.” :09

Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>


<p>CG: Dewey Caldwell Heart patient</p>	<p>Dewey describes the heart mapping process: <i>“They put a paper vest on me. That’s what they call it, a vest, I don’t know. And it pinpoints exactly where the radiation is going to go.” :12</i></p> <p>Dewey says he didn’t know how much longer he would live: <i>“I’ve crawled along, sometimes down on the floor. But it’s been hard to think that you won’t be here in two days or a month or anything.” :15</i></p> <p>Dewey praises Dr. Filart and the care he received: <i>“I love that man. He has done a fabulous job on me. And if he’s done that to every one of his patients, he is a tired man. (laughs)” :11</i></p>
--	---

References

¹*Noninvasive Cardiac Radiation for Ablation of Ventricular Tachycardia. New England Journal of Medicine, Volume 377, Issue 24, Dec. 2017.* Online:
<https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa1613773>

²*Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy, Orlando Health, 2022.* Online:
<https://www.orlandohealth.com/services-and-specialties/stereotactic-body-radiation-therapy>

For viewer information on this story contact:
Orlando Health: (321) 279-0417
mediarelations@orlandohealth.com

Produced by:
MEDIA  SOURCE
1800 West 5th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43212
Phone: (614) 932-9950 Fax: (614) 932-9920
www.mediasourcetv.com

**Video content provided by: Orlando Health
Media Relations Department: (321) 279-0417**