

First Patient in U.S. Treated for Atrial Fibrillation Using New Device to Restore Normal Heart Rhythm

New method of heart ablation using electrical pulses expected to deliver better results with lower risks

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	THE FIRST PATIENT IN THE U-S WAS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED FOR A COMMON HEART CONDITION USING JUST SMALL PULSES OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY. DETAILS, COMING UP IN HEALTH NEWS.
ANCHOR LEAD	AT LEAST TWO-POINT-SEVEN MILLION AMERICANS ARE LIVING WITH ATRIAL FIBRILLATION ¹ , OR A-FIB, A CONDITION THAT CAUSES IRREGULAR HEARTBEATS, DOUBLING THE RISK OF HEART-RELATED DEATH AND INCREASING STROKE RISK FIVEFOLD. NOW, A NEW CLINICAL TRIAL SHOWS THERE'S AN OPTION THAT MAY BE SAFER AND MORE EFFECTIVE THAN TRADITIONAL A-FIB TREATMENTS. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PROCEDURE IN THE U-S AND HOW IT MAY LEAD TO NEW STANDARDS IN CARDIAC CARE.
(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center :00 - :03 Shots of Rick reading with wife	(Nats - Sound) :02 FOR EIGHT YEARS, RICK LANG HAS WORKED WITH HIS DOCTORS TO TREAT PERSISTENT ATRIAL FIBRILLATION. :03 <i>"I could just feel it in my chest that my heart was racing. And I know that a couple of times I went into tachycardia, which is a very rapid heartbeat, sometimes too fast to count."</i> :08
CG: Rick Lang Atrial Fibrillation patient	
Shots of Rick consulting with Dr. Hummel	FOR THOSE LIKE RICK, DOCTORS OFTEN PERFORM WHAT'S CALLED AN ABLATION, WHICH USES A CATHETER TO APPLY HEAT OR COLD AND CREATE SMALL SCARS ON THE HEART THAT



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<p>Graphic showing how heart ablation works, how it can affect surrounding tissue</p> <p>CG: Dr. John Hummel Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>Shot of Rick before procedure</p> <p>Medtronic animation</p> <p>Dr. Hummel (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of ablation procedure using new device</p> <p>Dr. Hummel (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of procedure</p> <p>Shots of Rick walking dogs with wife</p> <p>Rick Lang (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of ablation procedure using new device (PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>ELIMINATE THE SOURCE OF IRREGULAR HEARTBEATS.</p> <p>BUT THE PROCEDURE IS NOT WITHOUT RISKS, PARTICULARLY COLLATERAL DAMAGE TO THE ESOPHAGUS OR SURROUNDING HEART TISSUE. :15</p> <p><i>“The only way to mitigate that risk is by decreasing the amount of thermal energy that you deliver to the heart. And that unfortunately leads to recurrence.” :11</i></p> <p>SO INSTEAD OF A TRADITIONAL ABLATION, RICK WAS THE FIRST PATIENT IN THE U-S TO UNDERGO A NEW PROCEDURE USING A DEVICE THAT EMITS SMALL ELECTRICAL PULSES RATHER THAN HEAT OR COLD. :09</p> <p><i>“We’re delivering a field of energy. So direct contact, having to have significant force against the heart wall, which confers a risk of perforation, will likely be eliminated.” :13</i></p> <p>DOCTOR JOHN HUMMEL PERFORMED THE PROCEDURE AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER AND SAYS THE DEVICE NOT ONLY MAKES ABLATIONS SAFER, BUT ALSO MORE EFFECTIVE BY PRECISELY TARGETING SPECIFIC CELLS. :09</p> <p><i>“It essentially causes the cells that are causing the problem to leak and cease electrical conduction without actually altering the tissue in the way that that burning tissue or freezing tissue would.” :18</i></p> <p>FOR RICK, THIS QUICK PROCEDURE HAS HELPED HIM RETURN TO THE LIFE HE LOVES, AND HE HOPES IT LEADS HIM INTO A HEART HEALTHY FUTURE. :04</p> <p><i>“I’m getting back on the golf course, because it’s good walking and good body movements, and just getting away from the fear of, ‘Is the AFib going to come back or the A-flutter going to come back?’” :10</i></p> <p>AT THE OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03</p> <hr/> <p>THE RESULTS OF THE INITIAL CLINICAL TRIAL SHOWED PULSED FIELD ABLATION ACHIEVED 100-PERCENT PULMONARY VEIN ISOLATION WITHOUT ANY NERVE INJURIES OR SERIOUS SIDE</p>
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	<p>EFFECTS.</p> <p>DOCTORS WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP WITH PATIENTS OVER THE NEXT YEAR TO MONITOR THE LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW HEART ABLATION DEVICE.</p> <p>IF SUCCESSFUL, EXPERTS HOPE IT WILL BECOME THE STANDARD TOOL TO HELP RESOLVE THIS DANGEROUS HEART CONDITION FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.</p>

SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>Doctors at @OSUWexMed successfully performed the first procedure in the U.S. to treat atrial fibrillation using a new device that they hope will make a common procedure safer and more effective. http://bit.ly/32uKkLc</p> <hr/> <p>At least 2.7 million American are living with atrial fibrillation and a new procedure performed for the first time in the U.S. at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center may lead to a safer and more effective way to treat the dangerous heart condition. http://bit.ly/32uKkLc</p>
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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Dr. John Hummel Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>CG: Rick Lang Atrial Fibrillation patient</p>	<p>Hummel explains what atrial fibrillation is and the risks it carries: <i>“Atrial fibrillation is a chaotic rhythm from the upper chamber of the heart. It’s the most common abnormal heart rhythm in humans and it can cause stroke and congestive heart failure.” :13</i></p> <p>Hummel says the device makes ablations easier and more effective: <i>“This is going to make for a much easier and more effective ablation that carries less risk.” :07</i></p> <p>Hummel explains why pulse ablations can be more thorough: <i>“There is no heat signature with the delivery. And this allows us to ablate the tissue until we’re satisfied that there’s not going to be recurrent electrical activity.” :11</i></p> <hr/> <p>Rick says the reward of being the first to have the procedure outweighed the risk: <i>“Somebody has to be the first one. So it seemed like the, the, the reward was greater than the risks, and here we are. I’m blessed, about a week since I had the procedure and I feel really good.” :12</i></p>
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CG: Rick Lang
Atrial Fibrillation patient

Rick says he has felt better since the procedure:
"I feel very good. My heart is doing what it's supposed to be doing, and there's a calmness to my chest versus being in an episodic situation, and dealing with the feeling that it's just not right." :14

Rick says medications did not effectively treat his atrial fibrillation:
"The original medication that I was on was not designed to deal with the progression of my AFib into A-flutter. So, that's when they decided to change the medication." :11

References

¹*What is Atrial Fibrillation (AFib or AF)?* **American Heart Association, Jul 31, 2016.** Online:
<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/atrial-fibrillation/what-is-atrial-fibrillation-afib-or-af>.

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The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center: 1-800-293-5123
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Produced by:

MEDIA  SOURCE

1800 West 5th Ave.

Columbus, Ohio 43212

Phone: (614) 932-9950 Fax: (614) 932-9920

www.mediasourcetv.com

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Media Relations Department: (614) 293-3737**

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