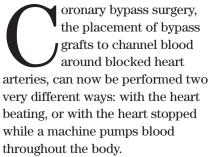


"Beating Heart" Bypass Surgery

By Francis P. Sutter, D.O. Chief, Cardiac Surgery, Lankenau Hospital Main Line Health Heart Center



Traditionally, heart-lung machines, coupled with medications, were used so that surgery could be performed



on a motionless heart. Now, OP-CAB (off-pump coronary artery bypass) can be performed while the heart is still beating. New technology

allows the heart to beat and function normally. The heart-lung machine, and the associated side effects from having the heart stopped and blood pumped through this complex device, are eliminated.

Benefits for patients undergoing this cutting-edge surgery include quicker recovery, fewer cognitive and neurologic consequences such as confusion or stroke, shorter hospital stays, decreased mortality and reduced need for blood transfusions. Surgery progresses much faster than traditional on-pump coronary bypass, so that the patient is under anesthesia for a shorter period of time and needs less time with assisted breathing. The patient awakens quicker and brighter, is able to eat, get out of bed the same day, begins cardiac rehabilitation—on the way to an improved quality of life.

At the Main Line Health Heart Center, a minimally invasive procedure, used to harvest veins from the legs and arteries from the arm, also expedites the patient's recovery. Rather than a lengthy incision that could stretch from the ankle to the groin and/or wrist to elbow, small, less than one-inch incisions are made. An endoscope connected to a video camera is inserted through these small openings to view and remove veins and arteries for use as bypass grafts. This technique decreases pain and healing time, resulting in a faster recovery.



Each patient's surgical approach is individualized based on his or her own condition and discussion with the surgeon. Teams of Main Line Health Heart Center doctors and nurses work together to ensure that the hospital stay for every patient is optimal from surgery through discharge.

Dr. Sutter and the Lankenau Hospital surgeons perform more than 94 percent of coronary arterybypass surgeries off-pump. The Main Line Health Heart Center at Lankenau has been is a national training center for physicians and nurses for OP-CAB (off-pump beating heart surgery) as well as other cardiac surgery procedures. Dr. Sutter, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Lankenau, is a founding member of the Delaware Valley Society of Thoracic Surgeons Quality Improvement Initiative, a regional effort with area cardiac surgeons to improve and provide quality cardiac surgical care.

Main Line Health Heart Center is one of the largest, most experienced and comprehensive heart centers in the country. For more information, call **1-866-CALL-MLH**, or visit us online at www.mainlinehealth.org/heart.

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