



Tri-City Medical Center

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Contact: Teresa Connors
Office: 760-940-5794
Cell Phone: 760-492-3333

Tri-City uses da Vinci in cutting-edge cardiac surgery

OCEANSIDE -- Dr. Paul Mazur conducted North County's first cardiac surgery on Nov. 28 at Tri-City Medical Center using the new robotic wonder, the da Vinci. A day later, the patient, Patricio Maynigo of San Marcos, was sitting up and talking and admiring the small incision left by the bypass surgery. By Wednesday, he was touching his toes, walking around and savoring how great it felt to not feel dizzy or pain.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY: Tri-City Medical Center is the only hospital in northern San Diego County and southern Orange County to offer this surgery, and it is one of just four hospitals in San Diego County that can perform the procedure. There are no hospitals in Riverside or San Bernardino Counties that perform the surgery.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Maynigo is a 65-year-old retired farmer from the Philippines. He spent his mornings and afternoons walking his 9-year-old grandson to and from school. Earlier this year, those walks became difficult; he got tired and dizzy and had to stop repeatedly. So he visited his doctor. A stress test indicated there was a problem. Further tests revealed a blockage in one of the blood vessels that feeds the heart. It was recommended he receive a bypass whereby the surgeon reroutes blood from one artery to another to improve blood flow, thus lessening the symptoms and reducing the risk of a heart attack.

SURGERY: Typically, a patient receiving a heart bypass would be put on a heart-lung machine and a rather large incision would be made in the breast bone.

With the da Vinci robot, the surgeon was able to make a smaller incision, causing less damage to musculature and less exposure to other organs.

Dr. Mazur made a small incision under the pectoral muscle between the ribs to access the arteries and heart to perform the bypass. The patient was not placed on a heart-lung machine.

Because of the benefits of the smaller incision and no heart-lung machine, the time needed for recovery is cut nearly in half. With the traditional method, a patient was in the hospital an average of 4-8 days followed by 2 months of recovery; with the da Vinci, the patient is usually discharged within 2-4 days and in recovery for 2 weeks.

POST SURGERY COMMENTS: "It went very smoothly," Dr. Mazur said. "The da Vinci is an excellent tool that makes my job a lot easier and the impact of the surgery on the patient much less," Dr. Mazur said.

Dr. Mazur trained with one of the leaders in the field and has performed the surgery on numerous occasions.

"My doctor is second to my god," Mr. Maynigo said, explaining the depth of his gratitude.

"I'm glad you're feeling well," Dr. Mazur said. "That makes me feel good."

Mr. Maynigo also praised his ICU nurse, Giana Novelli, for her kindness and compassion.

About Tri-City Medical Center:

Tri-City Medical Center is a gold seal approved, full-service, acute care hospital with two advanced clinical institutes and physicians practicing in 60 specialties. Administered by the Tri-City Healthcare District which includes Oceanside, Vista and most of Carlsbad, Tri-City is celebrating 50 years caring for the community. For more information about Tri-City Medical Center, please visit www.tricitymed.org.

