

**Mayo Clinic News Network**

**Title: Robotic Mitral Valve Surgery / Date February 2015**

Intro: Millions of Americans are living with a heart murmur, a tell-tale sound caused by blood swooshing through the heart. Some are harmless, but sometimes they're a clue to serious problems with the heart's valves. When surgery is called for, technology is allowing repairs to be made safer than ever before. Here's Dennis Douda for the Mayo Clinic News Network.

**Video**

**Audio**

<b>Total running time [2:30]</b>	<b>///NATS – Surgery</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Given the option, who wouldn't want a surgical procedure that lowers your risk of serious complications and gets you out of the hospital faster - with much less pain? We're talking about surgery on the valve leading into the largest chamber of your heart, the mitral valve. In 2-to-4 percent of the population, the valve's tissue fails to seal tightly, or prolapses, allowing blood to squirt back in the wrong direction.
<b>C.G. Rakesh Suri, M.D. Mayo Clinic Cardiac Surgeon</b>	<b>“The longer a person has mitral regurgitation and reverse flow of blood through the heart, the more likely they are to have heart failure, atrial fibrillation and die.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Rakesh Suri says once the problem becomes severe, patients need to have surgery. A decade ago, Dr. Suri says, that meant an artificial valve replacement for half of all patients. Today, however, he says 99% of patients can have their condition surgically repaired.
Dr. Rakesh Suri speaking	<b>“If we're able to spare your own mitral valve tissue, that's a good thing for you long-term. It's a decreased risk of infection, it's durable and you don't need blood thinner as you would if you had to replace the valve.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	As the head of Mayo Clinic's Robotic and Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgical program, Dr. Suri says <b>this</b> is one reason more valves can be repaired. Robotics offer mechanical advantages and magnified, high-definition 3-D visualization.

Dr. Rakesh Suri speaking	<b>“To really get a close up view of the mitral valve inside the heart itself and utilize robotic arms that are thinner than my fingertip, to slip between the ribs to perform the same operation as we would though an open sternotomy approach.”</b>
Dr. Rakesh Suri speaking	<p>Open Sternotomy involves splitting the chest to access the heart. Unlike the open approach, however, Dr. Suri and colleagues have found that patients treated robotically enjoy a much quicker recovery, at no additional cost.</p> <p><b>(Full screen graphic)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Their breathing tube is removed before they leave the operating room.</li> <li>-They’re up, walking and out of Intensive Care the same night as surgery.</li> <li>-Tylenol or Ibuprofen is usually enough to control pain, instead of narcotics.</li> <li>-They’re released from the hospital just 3-days after surgery.</li> </ul> <p>After performing more than 500 procedures using a multidisciplinary team, Mayo Clinic, a center of excellence, has a success rate of 99%, with less than a 1% chance of a major complication.</p>
Dr. Rakesh Suri speaking	<b>“There really is nothing like this in heart surgery that we do and that’s why it’s so fulfilling to be able to offer this to our patients.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Dennis Douda

**Anchor tag: Dr. Suri recommends that any patient in need of mitral valve repair seek out a center of excellence that performs many of the procedures each year, with a very high rate of success. Those who need multiple heart procedures, have peripheral artery disease or have had previous heart or lung surgeries may not be good candidates for the robotic approach.**

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