

Mayo Clinic News Network

Title: Making Organ Transplant Work for Courtney / Date: May 2015

Intro: Medical innovation has helped a Chicago area woman receive a lifesaving double organ transplant, even after she'd been told it wasn't an option. Previous surgeries had made her risk of organ rejection too high. Her doctors, however, turned her dire situation into an advantage. Here's Dennis Douda with the Mayo Clinic News Network.

Video	Audio
Total running time [3:36]	/// NATS
Courtney Kidd speaking	“The strength in my arms and legs are, you know, bouncing back. Getting more and more independent each day.”
Annie Kidd speaking	“She’s been very brave and very courageous and I just admire her a lot. To me, she’s my hero.”
Courtney Kidd speaking	“I’m stubborn.” (laughs)
Dennis Douda speaking	If that’s true, then it’s a trait that’s served Courtney Kidd well through a lifetime of medical challenges. She’s among the very first people in the world to receive a double organ transplant in way that was very likely her only chance to survive.
TITLE: Sudhir Kushwaha, M.D. Medical Director, Cardiac Transplant Program	“It was a case of, we can’t transplant the liver alone because the heart wouldn’t be able to cope or we couldn’t transplant the heart alone because the liver wouldn’t be able to cope. “
Annie Kidd speaking	“So when she was born, the first few hours everything was okay. But then the nursery nurse noticed that her earlobes were turning blue.
Dennis Douda speaking	Courtney arrived in the world as a very sick little girl, with 5 congenital heart defects.
TITLE: Annie Kidd Courtney’s Mother	“No tricuspid valve and no right ventricle. So only three chambers to her heart and then her aorta and her pulmonary artery were transposed. , called transposition of the great arteries.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Surgery saved Courtney’s life. But, there would be more heart operations ahead, at age 2... and 6. Another at age 12 lead to severe complications and a catastrophic brain hemorrhage. She fought her way

	through memory loss. .. and another open heart procedure at age 22... but, still managed to get her college degree in childhood development.
Annie Kidd speaking	“She proved everybody wrong, as she always does.”
Dennis Douda speaking	She became a pre-school teacher and earned her licensed to provide foster care, but within a few years, her scarred heart deteriorated... and a cascade of complications essentially destroyed her liver.
Courtney Kidd speaking	“I was getting weaker. I was on oxygen all the time.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Courtney was told organ transplant was not an option. Numerous blood transfusions over the years had caused her immune system to develop high levels of antibodies which would attack and reject foreign tissues. Yet, she needed both a new heart and a new liver.
Sudhir Kushwaha speaking	“And in a sense, that provided us with an opportunity. The liver seems to have the ability to, in very simple terms, mop up antibodies. We’ve been doing combined heart/livers for a long time, but the traditional approach is always to put the heart in first.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Instead, surgeons have found that by putting the liver in first, patients don’t seem to have any cellular or antibody-related rejection. The novel concept worked.
Sudhir Kushwaha speaking	“I just want to emphasize that this is very much a team approach... between our heart transplant group and our liver transplant group, in addition to the excellent care she has received in the ICU.”
Dennis Douda speaking	While her recovery wasn’t easy, Courtney’s determination was evident through physical ... and occupational therapy.
Courtney Kidd speaking	“I have a new heart and there’s things I want to do.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Courtney talks of running distance races and cycling, but she’s willing to start slow. At the Gift of Life Transplant house Courtney she was happy to get to dive back into baking again, with her lifelong best friend, her mom.

Annie Kidd speaking	“It’s just amazing. I mean, you know, we went from her probably having a year to live, if that, to now being given a whole new life. So, there’s just nothing she’s not going to be able to accomplish and do now
TITLE: Courtney Kidd Transplant Patient	“Each day is a new day and it’s precious and make the best of it. Find the positive in it.”
Dennis Douda speaking	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Dennis Douda.

Anchor tag: Mayo Clinic has also helped pioneer antibody filtering techniques and ways to use medications to reduce a patient’s antibody production. Courtney is working to raise organ donor awareness. Anyone who’d like to wish her well can do so at her Facebook page, through this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Courtney-Kidd-Have-a-Heart-Transplant-Page/740574382657565?ref=hl>

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