

Mayo Clinic News Network

Title: Teamwork Makes a Life-Changing Difference for Luis / **Date:** February 2016

Intro: Each year, about a half-million Americans have to have their colons removed. Whether it's because of cancer, trauma, diverticulitis or an inflammatory disease, it may be necessary to save their lives. That was case for Luis, a special young man who came a long way for help. His surgical team at Mayo Clinic found a very special solution. Here's Dennis Douda for the Mayo Clinic News Network.

Video

Audio

Total running time [3:43]	/// Video
Dennis Douda speaking	Like most patients headed for major surgery, Luis Coriano had some anxiety. Registered nurse Julie Wutschke and physician assistant Abby Meyers were determined to put him at ease.
Abby Meyers speaking	"I kind of wanted to alleviate those fears for him."
Luis Coriano speaking	"They are great."
Dennis Douda speaking	A fairly rare genetic disorder had created some tough choices for Luis and his parents, Manuel and Nitza. In fact, they traveled from Puerto Rico to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, trying to find a solution.
TITLE: Nitza Perez de Coriano Luis' Mother	"We searched on the Internet and found that there are not many places to treat this condition of Luis."
TITLE: Eric Dozois, M.D., Colon & Rectal Surgery, Mayo Clinic	"So Luis came to us with a condition called familial adenomatous polyposis. Patients with this gene defect develop multiple polyps or growths in their colon. This is a view of the inside of his colon and he's got over a thousand of those little polyps. Every single patient with this disorder will get cancer and many patients will die from the cancer if we don't do what we call a prophylactic surgery."
Dennis Douda speaking	That meant removing Luis's entire colon. Living with the aftereffects of that, worried him far more than the operation. So, his Mayo team tackled Luis's concerns one by one.

Dr. Dozois speaking	“If we don’t do some type of internal reconstruction, a patient will have to bring their intestine to the outside of their body and empty their stool into a bag.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Abby knows exactly what that involves. Because she’d had a comparable procedure, she could reassure Luis it would not limit him in any way.
TITLE: Abby Meyers, Physician Assistant, Mayo Clinic	“I told him, you know, ‘I will take care of you in the hospital after surgery, but right now I’m just going to be a person you are meeting who’s been through something similar, so you can ask me anything.’”
TITLE: Julie Wutschke, Registered Nurse, Mayo Clinic	“You know, he also has a learning disability. Functional autism, I believe, was his diagnosis. Kind of became, like, his Mayo mother or his older sister or whatever you want to say. And I stayed with him until he was fully asleep in the operating room.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Then, Dr. Dozois went to work, finding a way to reconfigure Luis’ gastrointestinal tract so that he would only need the stoma and external pouch temporarily.
Dr. Dozois speaking	“The standard procedure is what we call the ileal pouch-anal anastomosis. Now, once the colon and rectum are gone, what we do is take the small intestine, fold it on itself and bring it down to the deep pelvis and that creates this reservoir where the patients can hold their feces and then evacuate naturally.
Dennis Douda speaking	Dr. Dozois says this works for 95 percent of patients, but Luis’s internal anatomy wouldn’t quite reach.
Dr. Dozois speaking	“And it’s actually the blood vessels that sometimes restrict us in getting this pouch to go all the way down in the deep pelvis.”
Dennis Douda speaking	So, he performed a complex technique that preserved and lengthened the intestine’s critical blood supply.
Dr. Dozois speaking	“A technique that I would say is done in very few places around the world. It’s a procedure that we do maybe once every ten years and, in his case, it worked beautifully.”
Julie Wutschke speaking	“Quality of life is really important to all of us.”

Abby Meyers speaking	“It was very much a team approach for Luis and we do that for a lot of patients.”
Julie Wutschke speaking	“That’s what makes us special.”
Dr. Dozois speaking	“And he was just a great patient to take care of, so overjoyed and so appreciative of, you know, the opportunity that he had to avoid this permanent stoma.”
Luis Coriano speaking	“It’s a great thing.”
Dr. Dozois speaking	“I have this entire team that’s caring, considerate, very talented, and they do it every single day.”
Dennis Douda speaking	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Dennis Douda.

Anchor tag: Luis is doing great. He’s now studying computer animation and video gaming design. Dr. Dozois (doze-wah) published a paper detailing Luis’s procedure in a recent edition of a major surgical journal, and he is teaching the blood supply lengthening technique to other surgeons.

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