

Mayo Clinic Minute

Innovative treatments for moyamoya disease

VIDEO	AUDIO
Graphic: Moyamoya disease Affects the brain's blood vessels	Moyamoya disease is a rare disorder that affects blood vessels at the base of the brain.
Bernard Bendok, M.D.	"The large vessels – the pipes that go to the brain – get narrow and small."
	Neurosurgeon Dr. Bernard Bendok says the brain compensates by increasing the blood flow in smaller nearby vessels.
Bernard Bendok, M.D.	"But that ability for the brain to compensate reaches a tipping point."
Graphic: Risk for stroke Reduction in cognitive function	And that increases the risk for stroke and a loss of cognitive function.
Title: Bernard Bendok, M.D. Neurosurgery Mayo Clinic	"And, sometimes, we can reduce that loss and improve things for patients."
	Dr. Bendok says one innovative procedure creates a connection between the scalp and the brain.
Bernard Bendok, M.D.	"We make an opening in the bone and lay the scalp tissue on to the brain, so that the vessels in the scalp tissue can now grow into the brain."
Bernard Bendok, M.D.	"Additionally, we can take a scalp artery and do a direct anastomosis – a direct connection between that artery and a superficial brain vessel."
Bernard Bendok, M.D.	"So the brain can actually regulate and promote its own wellness by growing new vessels."
	Dr. Bendok says when a patient with moyamoya disease is treated and monitored closely, the prognosis can be excellent.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jeff Olsen.