

**A father's gift to his son**

VIDEO	AUDIO
	NATS
<b>Jason</b>	It's a special bond between father and son.
	NATS
<b>Jason</b>	For Steve Teeples and his first child, Easton, it's extraordinary.
	NATS "cheese!"
<b>Jason</b>	Diagnosed as a newborn with congenital nephrotic syndrome, a rare, genetic kidney disease ...
<b>Steve Teeples La Crosse, Wisconsin</b>	"They told us upfront, transplant is going to happen at some point. We just didn't know when or how we were going to get to that."
<b>Jason</b>	... By the time Easton was one, doctors at Mayo Clinic told Steve and his wife, Marcie, that Easton was big enough to receive a new kidney. And dad would be the donor.
<b>Steve</b>	"I remember the day I got the call. I was pretty excited. I'm sorry if I get emotional, but they said, 'You're a match.'"
<b>Jason</b>	The first hurdle... transplanting an adult-sized kidney into a young child's body.
<b>Steve</b>	"I mean, if you look at Easton's little tummy. How can that fit in there?"
<b>Dr. Prieto</b>	"It's part of the challenge. And sometimes the kidney essentially takes up about half of the space in the belly."
<b>Jason</b>	Dr. Mikel Prieto is surgical director of the pediatric kidney transplant program at Mayo Clinic.
<b>Mikel Prieto, M.D. Transplantation Surgery Mayo Clinic</b>	"Putting a large adult kidney in a small child is like putting a Ferrari engine into a small car. It really has a fantastic function."

	"It's really the best option for these small kids to get a healthy, large adult kidney."
<b>Jason</b>	But the biggest challenge of them all would be how to connect Steve's kidney to Easton's small veins. And because of the damage from his disease, Easton's main blood source to the kidney, the vena cava, had essentially disappeared.
<b>Dr. Prieto</b>	"This is the only part of the cava that is open because the main cava here is missing. It's all clotted off. So the only option was to remove this kidney, and to connect the new one right in that spot."
<b>Jason</b>	It would be a first for Dr. Prieto and the Mayo transplant team.
<b>Dr. Prieto</b>	"I mean, the option was to say, 'Sorry, we can't do this because this is too difficult.' Or, 'Let's try the only option that we have, which is to go way up there in a very difficult spot and connect the kidney.'"
<b>Jason</b>	Now, a waiting game, as the transplant team performed surgery on Easton first to determine if Dr. Prieto could make the transplant work.
<b>Dr. Prieto</b>	"I made the final decision to say: 'OK, this vein looks good enough. I think we can connect a new kidney to this spot. So, let's go for it.'"
<b>Steve</b>	"And I was laying in the bed, and 45 minutes or a half-hour rolled around and in come the doctors and nurses and they said, 'Well, are you ready to go?' And then, you know, celebration, flood of emotions. I started crying."
<b>Dr. Prieto</b>	"And we were able to put it perfectly well just in the same spot as his own kidney used to be."
	NATS OF EASTON
<b>Dr. Prieto</b>	"Despite this huge surgery for a little boy like this, he had a very nice recovery. And you can see a few weeks later how happy he is and how well he's doing — big change for his life."

	NATS OF EASTON
<b>Jason</b>	A little more than a month after transplant surgery and now past his second birthday....
	NATS OF EASTON
<b>Jason</b>	Easton is a ball of energy ....
<b>Steve</b>	"He's got a part of me in him."
<b>Jason</b>	... and a chip off the old block.
	NATS OF EASTON
<b>Steve</b>	"He's my hero. He's a warrior. And I don't know what parent wouldn't want to do something like that for their own kid."
	NATS OF EASTON
<b>Steve</b>	"It takes everybody. It's a team effort. And the least I could do to help him and give him a better life is give up my kidney for him. I'm happy and I'm proud to do it."
	NATS "Thumbs up!"
<b>Jason</b>	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.