



## Back to basketball after surgery

Video	Audio
Nats basketball	Playing basketball is a way of life for 24-year-old Parker Shanks.
<b>Parker Shanks Patient</b>	"Next thing I know, I'm laying down in the middle of the basketball court, and there's a stretcher coming to pick me up."
Nats basketball	Parker was a college junior when he first had a seizure. A month later, he had a second. He was prescribed anti-seizure medication and was seizure-free for over a year. But after that day on the court, epilepsy began to rule Parker's life.
	"It got to a scarily regular basis, where I was having the grand mal seizures about monthly, and then I was having the focal 'zone out' seizures at least weekly."
	6 feet, 8 inches, Parker fell and hit his head several times during seizures. Once, after being seizure-free for a few months, Parker totaled his car during a seizure.
Parker Shanks	"I'm not going outside and doing anything else because I just, I have that shadow in the back of my head."
	More than 3 million people in the U.S. have epilepsy. For a third of them, medication doesn't control their seizures. That was true for Parker.
Nats door knocking	
	Mayo Clinic experts found that Parker had a skull defect called encephalocele.

<p><b>Jeffrey Britton, M.D.</b>  <b>Neurology</b>  <b>Mayo Clinic</b></p>	<p>"Encephalocele is an outpouching of part of the brain. Early in development, the skull actually consists of several different plates that are separated to allow growth. After growth is completed, these plates fuse together. Sometimes that fusion is incomplete, leaving little gaps. That can allow part of the brain to pooch out through the defect."</p>
	<p>Some encephaloceles, like Parker's, are less than a half inch, difficult to detect on MRI.</p>
<p>Dr. Britton</p>	<p>"It's really, kind of a team effort. I want to stress that, and often, in identifying these lesions."</p>
	<p>Mayo has published research on encephalocele detection and surgery.</p>
<p>Dr. Britton</p>	<p>"This took a lot of hard work to put this series together."</p>
	<p>The team's rigorous review of drug-resistant epilepsy cases uncovered Parker's encephalocele.</p>
<p>Dr. Britton Nats of Appointment</p>	<p>"We definitely need to continue medications."</p>
	<p>Before Parker went under anesthesia for his surgery, he had asked to make an announcement to the team.</p>
<p>Parker</p>	<p>"I'm seeing this as my new birthday. So thank you, guys."</p>
<p>Dr. Britton</p>	<p>"I mean, it's really a privilege to be in a position where you can be a part of a process that brings clear benefits to an individual patient. I mean, it's what keeps you going."</p>
<p>Parker</p>	<p>"I mean, I don't know how else to put it: I've got my life back."</p>
	<p>For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.</p>