

## Mayo Clinic announces milestone with its first robotic pancreas-kidney transplant

(Anchor intro)

Mayo Clinic is using a new weapon in the fight against diabetes-related kidney failure.

About 40 million people in the U.S. are living with diabetes. Most are able to manage the condition with medication and lifestyle changes.

But in some cases, diabetes, type 1 and type 2, can lead to more serious problems, including chronic kidney disease, even kidney failure, leaving patients with only one option — a pancreas-kidney transplant.

The transplant has been performed for decades. Now, surgeons at Mayo Clinic are performing the transplant robotically.

Steve Canzoneri shares his life-changing story of becoming Mayo's first patient to undergo a robotic pancreas-kidney transplant.

Nat sound: In Steve's room with Dr. Michelle Nguyen	"Hi. Good morning. Morning. How are you? Good. How are you? Doing pretty good."
Narrator:	Steve Canzoneri has battled diabetes most of his life. Despite treatment, the diabetes still took a toll on his body, and over time led to kidney failure.
Steve Canzoneri Patient	"I've had some major setbacks with diabetic complications and other things like that."
Narrator:	Diabetes is a disease where the body cannot properly control blood sugar levels. In most cases, the pancreas doesn't make enough insulin, or the body can't use it effectively. This can damage organs, especially the kidneys, leaving some patients like Steve in need of a pancreas-kidney transplant. Steve got the transplant he needed at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, and he also became Mayo's first patient to undergo that procedure robotically.
Michelle Nguyen, M.D. Transplantation Surgery Mayo Clinic	"Traditionally, this operation involves very big incisions but with a minimally invasive approach, we're able to offer patients smaller incisions. That potentially allows the patient to recover faster, have less pain, have less risk of wound complications, and just to be able to return to their normal life more quickly."

Narrator:	It works like this. Two surgeons sit at consoles, guiding the robot with hand controls. The robot does not replace the surgeon — it enhances precision, accuracy and control.
Nitin Katariya, M.D. Transplantation Surgery Mayo Clinic	"The robot is actually just a tool that we use in the operating room that improves our magnification, allows us to do a minimally invasive approach and maybe not as big of an incision. But we're right there with it. It's us driving the robot."
Narrator:	The transplant is more than just a treatment.
Nitin Katariya, M.D.	"Not many of these patients on insulin we can try to cure both issues, the kidney disease and what may have caused the kidney disease in the first place, their diabetes. And so we look at kidney-pancreas transplant together as a way to attack both problems."
Narrator:	Steve's dad noticed an improvement right away.
Steve Canzoneri	"He said to me that I finally sound like his son again."
Michelle Nguyen, M.D.	"He's recovering very smoothly. But most importantly, he is done with dialysis. His kidney function is pretty much normal now. He is off insulin."
Narrator:	Steve was discharged less than a week after his transplant.
Steve Canzoneri	"To be able to live, be able to travel again and be able to live life and just having that renewed spirit of being able to just do whatever I want — whenever I want — not being tied down somewhere."
Narrator:	Not everyone is a candidate for the transplant. Doctors recommend talking to your healthcare team to determine what options are best for you. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Marty Velasco Hames.