

### 3 Lifesaving surgeries and a second chance

#### Randy Ramey's Story

INTRO: What began as a routine check for swelling, quickly turned Randy Ramey's life upside down. When pneumonia and swelling were diagnosed as stage 4 [cirrhosis](#) of the liver, Randy, of Denton, Texas, struggled to understand how it was all connected.

A series of visits with local specialists revealed a fatty liver disease called [metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis](#), or MASH. For Randy, the diagnosis set off a cascade of life-or-death decisions that led his wife and him to Mayo Clinic, where he underwent a complex series of three lifesaving procedures, including a double [coronary artery bypass surgery](#), [liver transplant](#) and, just months later, a [kidney transplant](#). They found themselves navigating one health obstacle after another.

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| Randy Ramey<br>Patient            | I was shocked. I mean, we didn't see that coming at all. Is right out of left field. You know, at that point, I wasn't physically sick. I was just swollen.  |
| Narrator:                         | When pneumonia and swelling became a diagnosis of stage four cirrhosis. Randy Ramey of Denton, Texas, came to Mayo Clinic for a liver transplant evaluation. What doctors found made his situation far more urgent and far more complex.   |
| Randy Ramey<br>Patient            | <p>I went into the lab for a chemical stress test but that's where they confirmed the two blockages. So what they ended up deciding, we're going to do two surgeries in one day, We're going to do your heart surgery. You're double bypass and we're going to do the liver.</p> <p>The worst I felt was the day before I got transplanted. The next morning when I woke up and had to do the walk, I still felt better than I did before the surgery,</p> |
| Narrator:                         | From the hospital window, Randy's wife, Elise, watched the mountains outside and saw their journey ahead. Every peak, every valley. Another procedure, another decision. Another climb.  |
| Elise Rame, Ph.D.<br>Randy's wife | We're going to have to climb every one of those mountain ranges. We're going to have to ascend and descend and ascend and descend  |

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|                        | every one of those mountain ranges.   |
| Randy Ramey<br>Patient | I'm getting rebuilt from the ground up.   |
| Narrator:              | With his heart and liver working well. Randy discovered he needed a third lifesaving procedure. A kidney transplant.                      |
| Randy Ramey<br>Patient | My kidney took off running and it hasn't stopped.   |
| Randy Ramey<br>Patient | I don't know how you're pay somebody for saving your life. I get emotional because you can't put it in words, but I've tried.             |
| Narrator:              | And with smiles as big as Texas. Randy and Elise are home after 27 weeks in Arizona. For the Mayo Clinic News Network. I'm Jason Howland. |