

**Mayo Clinic performs its first dual mechanical heart pump procedure, giving
father of two a path to transplant**

VIDEO	AUDIO
Tony Wazwaz	"Devastating ... it was the worst feeling in the world."
Mauricio Villavicencio, M.D. Cardiovascular Surgery Mayo Clinic	"So, as a consequence, your heart doesn't pump enough blood, and then your organs starts going down."
Tony Wazwaz Patient Brooklyn Park, Minnesota	"The only advice we give you, 'Go home, spend the last few days with your family. It's not going to be long before you pass away because your body's going to shut down, and there's nothing we can do for you.'"
Tony Wazwaz	"Honestly, it was the hardest line I've ever had to hear — someone telling you, you have 10 days to live, roughly. What do you say to your kids? How do you tell them, 'I'm dying?'"
Dr. Villavicencio	"So Tony, he went through the whole ladder of heart failure. Medication wasn't good enough."
Tony Wazwaz	"It was done. The road was done. The journey was done. And I didn't believe the journey was done. Something in me told me, 'You've got to keep fighting, even if they don't want to fight for you, you've got to keep fighting.'"
Dr. Villavicencio	"There was a lot of uncertainty of doing durable devices for both sides of the heart, because they have never done it here at Mayo."
Tony Wazwaz	"Well, they said, 'It's not something that we've done before. You would be the first. And you would be accepting you are the first, and we're going down a new road.'"
Dr. Villavicencio	"He said, 'Well, doctor, I just don't want to go anywhere,' he said, 'I would just prefer to have it done here.'"
Tony Wazwaz	"Sign me up. Sign me up."

Dr. Villavicencio	“He pushed the balance to do it. And that made it really happen and just focus on saving his life, and then making him able to go home and then prove that he can’t be a transplant candidate in the future.”
Tony Wazwaz	“And it was so personal that if just my surgeon is not talking to me, it’s all the other guys that are going to be in the room with him. You know, the heart transplant doctor was in the room there, even though they weren’t doing the heart transplant and, honestly, that connected with me.”
Dr. Villavicencio	“So we already had established some connection with him so he trusted the team. So I think that, for me, was the tipping point because, if not, I wouldn’t have done the operation, to be honest with you.”
Tony Wazwaz	“So, what does time mean? A second chance at proving to those people that, this time around, I’m a changed man. And I’m not going to waste one minute of my newfound life.”