MAYO CLINIC

Mayo Clinic Minute: Surgical advances help preserve function after stomach cancer treatment

VIDEO	AUDIO
	Treatment options for stomach cancer include surgery to remove all or part of the stomach, depending on the location and extent of the cancer.
	If the entire stomach is removed in a procedure called total gastroectomy, the surgeon then connects the esophagus to the small intestine so food can move through the digestive system.
Travis Grotz, M.D. **Surgical Oncology** **Mayo Clinic**	“What they’ve lost is their storage reservoir. When they eat a big meal, they don’t have that reservoir anymore to eat these large meals, and so they’re limited to eating very, very small meals frequently. But what we can do is, we can recreate a new stomach out of their intestine, we call that a J-pouch, and that restores some of that capacity for patients to eat larger meals afterwards. And so then when they recover, they can have a little bit more normal function in eating than if they didn’t have that pouch.”
	Mayo Clinic surgeons are also studying techniques that can preserve part of the stomach.
	“We have a lot of experience here at Mayo Clinic in still obtaining a good cancer operation, still getting all the lymph nodes out, all the negative margins, all the cancer out, but able to still save that bottom part of the stomach and do that reconstruction and get the benefits of stomach preservation.”
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m DeeDee Stiepan.