

Kirk's Journey Through Open-Heart Surgery

"I knew I had a problem. I noticed my heart beating fast under exertion. I had no symptoms of what I would say a heart attack, like a shortness of breath, pain in my chest, no excessive sweating. But something wasn't right."

"They showed me after that, very vividly, that I had major blockages in the coronary arteries in my heart. I needed bypass surgery."

"His journey through heart surgery was- was a shock, I mean it came out of nowhere. We thought he had a minor problem quickly found out in the hospital that it wasn't minor that they weren't releasing him that he did need major surgery."

"The one thing that crosses my mind immediately when you find you're having open-heart surgery, which is a-- yeah, to my mind, that was a- that was a s- a very complicated, serious type of a surgery. You start thinking about your of course, yourself, your life, your your family-- the wife, the kids, the grandchildren and things, your friends and things."

"When I woke up in the ICU that afternoon, the what I remember was, basically, there was my wife, my daughter, my son, you know, standing there with me, and I don't remember any major pain. It just you know, I had obviously been through a major operation, but I was there, and they were there to comfort me, and things felt good."

"Shortly after surgery, they I was surprised how soon they started basically, recovering, you know, procedures, and one of the things was the incentive spirometer that they gave me to, you know, to check my lung power and my, you know, my lungs and things."

"Within a within a day or so, I was they started unhooking lines and removed me from the ICU to a regular room in the in the cardiac wing, and just moving down to a regular room in a regular wing of the hospital made me feel like I was that much more closer to getting home, truthfully, within several days."

"Another surprise was the how fast you feel like you're recovering. Once you get to that regular the regular room in there, they have you sitting up. Next thing you know, you're allowed to walk and move around, up and down the halls and things, and it just feels like you're that much you know, you've recovered so much faster than I would've imagined from major open-heart surgery."

"I have things I want to do with my life. I have a future to look forward to. This gave me the future that I really did not have before this. This is an important thing to you need-- if you need this done, you need to do it. The yeah, you need to face the consequences, but it's truthfully, overall, this has not been a terrible experience. I'm very glad that I had it done, and I'm very glad I found out I needed this done before it was too late, or something worse happened."