

Hi Everybody -

Gary's surgery went very well yesterday. The surgeon repaired the mitral valve by adding a ring to support it. This avoided the whole issue of deciding whether to replace the valve with an animal valve or a mechanical valve. The surgeon opted not to do a bypass. He felt that the partly obstructed artery still had enough flow so that a bypass was not necessary. He also opted not to do the ablation for the a-fib because Gary's atrial area was too large.

Gary is progressing appropriately. Translation: they're very pleased with his progress, but he looks like hell and feels awful. He's all swollen from all the fluid, so all his joints are stiff and swollen and he can't move comfortably. He has tubes going in and coming out all over the place, and he's attached to more monitors than I've ever seen in one place. His chest hurts, and he says he feels like he was hit by a truck. In other words, he's exactly where he should be for the surgery he just had.

The CVICU is very impressive. Gary is in a room that's bigger than our bedroom - bright and cheerful, nice big windows - and his nurse is always right there.

I just talked to his nurse, and she plans to start removing some of the tubes this morning, and getting him up into a chair. She said he's very anxious and wants to know about every little thing she's doing - and that he's obviously likes being in control. I laughed and assured her that actually, he was being very compliant and cooperative right now.

He will probably stay in the ICU until late today, then be moved to a regular room. I'll let you know how he's doing..... Thanks for all the prayers and good thoughts.

Virginia