



SPONSORED BY HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM



Case Study: 85-Year-Old Patient Undergoes Consecutive Robotic Bypass, Angioplasty, and TAVR



Henry Ford Health System
January 22, 2021

Robotic heart surgery followed by angioplasty then Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) may be first in country

Marilyn Reckling, 85, was diagnosed with critical aortic valve stenosis in January 2020. She was referred for evaluation with [Samer Kazzih, M.D.](#), an interventional cardiologist and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital's chief of Cardiovascular Services. A cardiac catheterization revealed significant coronary artery blockages in addition to the severe aortic valve stenosis.

Based on her age and 40-year history of hypertension, the patient was considered high risk for open-heart surgery. [Henry Ford Macomb's Structural Heart team](#) evaluated her case and formed a multifaceted plan of care incorporating the hospital's leading-edge, minimally invasive treatment options.

To buy the patient some time at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Kazzih performed aortic valvuloplasty to temporarily improve her symptoms. COVID-19 forced all but the most urgent surgeries to be postponed at Henry Ford Macomb and most other hospitals in the area. As soon as surgical services were approved to resume, Marilyn's surgeries were rescheduled.

Robotic bypass surgery, followed by angioplasty, followed by TAVR: [Raed Alnajjar, M.D.](#), director of Cardiothoracic Surgery Services, first performed robotic bypass surgery with a single bypass to the left anterior descending artery (LAD).

“Henry Ford Macomb Hospital is one of only a few hospitals in the country—and the only one in southeast Michigan—to offer robotic heart bypass surgery, which has the benefits of smaller incisions, minimal pain and a much shorter recovery time,” said Dr. Alnajjar.

The next day, Dr. Kazzih performed angioplasty and stenting of the left main and circumflex.

“All of these preceding steps were done so we could eventually do TAVR in the safest manner possible and not put Marilyn through open heart surgery,” said Dr. Kazzih.

Just three weeks later, a TAVR was completed under the leadership of [William O'Neill, M.D.](#), medical director of the Henry Ford Center for Structural Heart Disease, assisted by Drs. Alnajjar, Kazzih and Brian O'Neill. The procedure was finished in less than 1.5 hours with an excellent outcome.

“We believe it's the first time in the country that a cardiac robotic bypass has been combined with TAVR and angioplasty/stenting,” said Dr. William O'Neill.

The patient responded remarkably well to all three minimally invasive procedures—each with positive clinical outcomes. Family members reported a significant improvement in her breathing, speaking, demeanor and mobility. To date, Marilyn is active in her home and family life having completed both physical and occupational therapy at home. She will begin cardiac rehabilitation next.

“It took extensive collaboration by multiple specialists to help this high-risk patient achieve a superb clinical outcome,” said Dr. Kazzih. “We're happy to be able to offer our patients this high level of expertise at Henry Ford Macomb.”

[Learn more about the Structural Heart Team at Henry Ford Health System](#)

