

Re: coronary heart disease PLEASE HELP!

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- *From:* Robert Coe <bob@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 10 Apr 2006 22:44:41 -0400
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On 10 Apr 2006 13:29:57 -0700, "Andrew B. Chung, MD/PhD"

<andrew@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

: msmollymac@xxxxxxxx wrote:

: > My father went to the doctor 4 days ago because he had been having
: > chest pains. The doctor sent him immediately over to the hospital to
: > have testing done on his heart. They went in today to do a balloon
: > angioplasty but after inserting the catheter the doctor decided my
: > father could not have the stints put in nor was he a candidate for
: > heart surgery. I'm so confused because they are planning to put him on
: > medication— it just seems like something more could be done & now I
: > feel as if he's just waiting to have a heart attack.

:

: My guess is that what your father was scheduled to have was a
: diagnostic heart catheterization with coronary angiography and the
: invasive cardiologist did not find any blockages that warrant an
: intervention such as a stent or bypass surgery. This is actually good
: news.

:

: > I'd like to talk to someone who is more educated on coronary heart
: > disease or maybe someone who has had experience with heart disease in
: > the past. Any information would be appreciated.

I'm not a physician, but I've been in your father's situation, and Andrew's analysis sounds right to me. In my case they decided that angioplasty and stents were geometrically impossible, so I had to have bypass surgery. I was just short of 59, for all practical purposes the same age as your dad. 60 isn't considered particularly old for bypass surgery, so the fact that they didn't recommend it suggests that your dad isn't all that bad off.

: You are welcome to post your questions here. Would be more than glad
: to answer them for you as an invasive cardiologist.

:

: > Some things you might ought to know are that my father is 60 years
: > old... his father died of a heart attack at 53. He has smoked for over
: > 40years and drinks heavily. However, he is not overweight and very
: > active for his age. Also his diet could be better.
: > I'm worried sick over this and have no clue who to ask about the
: > disease and what other options he has.

Re: coronary heart disease PLEASE HELP!

You and your dad should understand that he has dodged a bullet but that others will follow. He should use the opportunity to make the necessary lifestyle changes, particularly quitting smoking and cutting down on drinking. (Liquor, in addition to its other effects in large quantities, is very high in calories.) My dad died of a heart attack at 54, but diagnostic methods were crude then, and modern heart surgery was unknown. I'm still alive at 68, but only because of a generation's improvement in technology.

: You should be able to ask your father's cardiologist about his
: condition. Short of that, general questions about coronary disease are
: answerable either by me or some of the other participants here in SMC.

:

: > I'd really like to know if the
: > chances of him dying soon are high or not but the doctors and my mother
: > seem to want to keep me in the dark.

:

: There is not much that can be done about that.

:

: > Please help if you can offer any
: > information or advice. It will be greatly appreciated.

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: Would suggest you accompany your father when he next visits his
: cardiologist.

Good advice.

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Robert K. Coe ** 14 Churchill St, Sudbury, MA 01776-2120 USA ** 978-443-3265

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