

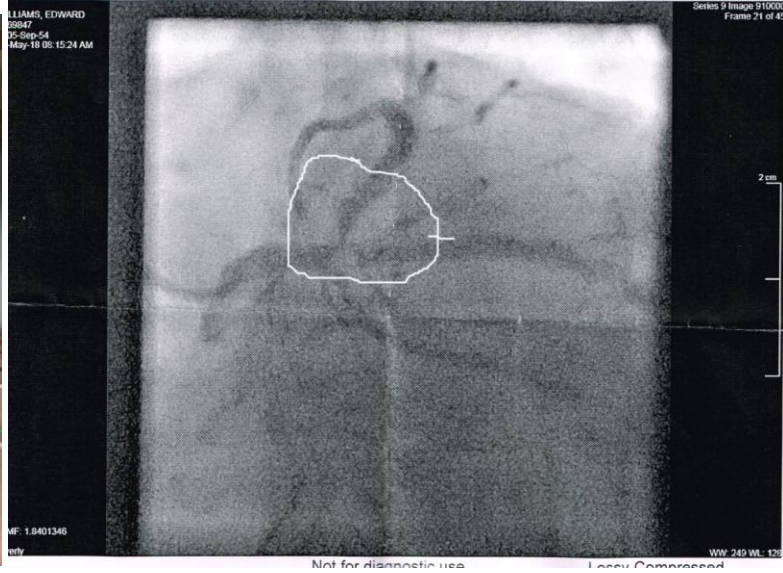
The day after

Talk about being worrisome. I was so nervous to be cracked open like a walnut.

Open Heart Surgery is so risky with the pitfalls of problems that follow like pneumonia, MRSA, STAFF, and many other problems associated with open heart surgery. I went in at 7:05 AM in the morning for the 4 hour operation. I had a very good team. My Surgeon was Russian and he was wonderful. They had to shut my heart off for 39 min while working on it. I was on a life support system which is merely a Heart and Lung machine. After repairs and new artery's being attached by a process called graphing they restarted the heart and watched it beat for about an hour. They closed me back up and bingo, all new plumbing to the heart. Waking up with a breathing tube down your throat is enough to make you cry mommy believe me.

When I woke up the doctor was holding my hand as he promised and removed the breathing tubes as I started to panic when I could not communicate with anyone. Recovery has been tough. The pain is just about unbearable. It's been 3 weeks now and I can barely stand it but each day it gets a little better on the pain side. I can feel the difference of the new blood delivery systems that were put in..

The doctors say I have the heart of a 20 year old and no longer have severe heart disease as I did since 2005. In 2005 I had a heart attack and they had to insert 2 stents into 2 blocked arteries. Those two arteries were by passed during this recent procedure. So as soon as the pain from my chest bone healing goes away, I will really be able to do things I could not do before without running out of breath. So I would like to thank God and Dr. Greg Smaroff for the fine treatment they gave me. Lahey Hospital in Burlington is an awesome place to be if you're in need of critical care. The part I wish to tell you is, I never had a chest pain, no warning signs whatsoever. This is usually the case. So I recommend everybody take a stress test and if you fail have an intervention and check for blockages because if you don't, a blood clot will take you out, kill off your heart muscle and kill you.



Clearly you can see the artery that is circled come to a knife point. This is a 90% blocked artery that cannot be stented and has to be bypassed. It's called a widowmaker!