

PATIENT: Mariette Brissette

Age 75, Suncook, NH

FAMILY: Two sisters, two brothers

DIAGNOSIS: Coronary artery disease, mitral valve regurgitation

SURGERY: Quadrapal bypass, mitral valve repair; July 31, 2008



Mariette Brissette knew something was wrong. She couldn't lie down, do her laundry, or walk to the backyard without heavy breathing and exhaustion. When she told her primary care physician, he referred her to see Concord Hospital's Dr. Mark Klinker. In summer 2008 Dr. Klinker performed a cardiac catheterization in the Hospital's catheterization suite and determined that Mariette needed at least four coronary bypasses and repair to her mitral valve.

Dr. Gerald Sardella performed the surgery at the end of July, eliminating the need for multiple surgeries in a marathon operation that fulfilled one of Mariette's first requests. "I asked him to do everything at once so I wouldn't have to come back," she laughed. "He was such an angel." The cardiothoracic surgery began early in the morning and lasted well into the night during which Dr. Sardella was able to address all of her cardiac needs. This was followed by a stay in Concord Hospital's Intensive Care Unit, where Mariette remembered the constant companionship of "a very nice nurse."

The many hours of cardiac surgery at Concord Hospital paid off for Mariette. "I feel so good, I can't believe it. I can breathe, I can walk, I can go shopping!" With four new bypasses and a repaired mitral valve, Mariette has a happy outlook on an already happy life. "I have lots of friends and family and I love to entertain them. I truly enjoy life."

Mariette was impressed with the entire Concord Hospital experience, from her first admission right through her surgery and recovery. She was thrilled to meet the two female medical professionals handling her anesthesia - anesthesiologist, Sarah Witt, MD, and anesthesiologist, Linda Beaudet, ARNP and was delighted to see such talented women at the pinnacle of their profession. Mariette's brothers and sisters, waiting patiently during the surgery, were equally impressed by the hourly updates they received. "Everyone was very well informed," said Mariette.

Communication was critical for her family and for Mariette. It was also a core process of open information and dialogue that underlies every Concord Hospital experience. "Dr. Sardella is very nice. He listened to everything I had to say," Mariette emphasized, adding, "I didn't feel rushed at all at Concord Hospital." Many other intangibles also made her visit memorable, "They put me in a private room that was like a hotel room, with a fancy shower. The service was wonderful."

Now Mariette visits her Concord Hospital cardiologist, Dr. Jeff Lockhart, once a year for checkups. She is happy, healthy, and active. And just like she knew something was very wrong— more than a year ago—she now knows that something is very, very right. "I trust in the Lord and I love life," she states. "Concord Hospital is a magical place."

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