

Physicians and Patients Talk About the CardioWest Artificial Heart



Prof. Reiner Körfer
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 Bad Oeynhausen, Germany

“Since we began using the CardioWest TAH-t, we have learned that even in hopeless cases, where conventional assist devices are not sufficient, there is help for patients suffering from end-stage heart failure. This is the only system that guarantees life for patients with totally damaged hearts.”



Pr. Daniel Duveau
 Medical Director
 University Hospital of NantesNantes, France

“Twenty years later, the CardioWest device remains an irreplaceable artificial heart; it permits us to save many patients who have biventricular failure, which represents about 30% of the people who have advanced or terminal heart failure. In our experience, it is the best circulatory support we have used in such situations, permitting us to successfully transplant more than 60% of the patients since we began implanting the device in 1988.”



Joachim, a motorcycle mechanic, affixed a Ducati logo to his portable driver, which he named “Anton.”

Joachim Heumann
 CardioWest and transplant recipient, Wolfhagen, Germany



On March 4, 2008, Joachim received his donor heart transplant.



Post-transplant: Prof. Reiner Körfer (right) and surgeon Michiel Morshuis, M.D. (left), visit with Joachim after his heart transplant.

“My TAH-t was my second chance, my second birthday. When you have accepted being on the driver, you will see ‘him’ as a friend that keeps you alive. I called my driver ‘Anton’. On the artificial heart and portable driver I could participate in everyday life, live at home with my wife and my daughters, meet with friends and go for a walk or go shopping. I am very thankful for being alive; there was no alternative for me until I got a donor heart.”

Date of implant: March 19, 2007
 Date of transplant: March 4, 2008
 Date of discharge: April 2, 2008