

Laser Makes Extraction Procedure a Little Less Tricky

SOT

Dr. Abraham Kocheril [pronounced COACH-uh-rul], director of cardiac electrophysiology at OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute in Urbana, Illinois

“This is not a procedure to take lightly. But having said that, somebody’s got to do it. So I’m happy to be offering the service.” (:09)

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“If the patient has a bloodstream infection of any sort, there's a chance that the pacemaker system can get infected. So that infection can travel between the pocket where the generator sits and the leads that go into the heart. So an infection anywhere can travel back and forth. And so the only way to clear that infection is to take out all the material.” (:20)

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“This reduces the amount of force you have to use. So there’s less trauma to the vein and to the patient. And laser is generally more successful. So if your lead starts to fracture a little bit, the laser is a little bit better where you don't have to push and pull as much. You can try to go around what's holding it in place and hopefully get it out intact.” (:23)

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“We have a cardiac surgeon standing by in case one of these events happens. The other thing we do is to have blood available for transfusion. So if a patient is bleeding away, one of the ways to save their life is to give them blood and stabilize them while we're doing everything else to fix the problem, the bleeding source.” (:19)