

Script – Broadcast – Back on two feet: one patient’s recovery thanks to limb salvage surgery

INTRO

Ron Carlson had been hampered by various health problems for several years. The Rockford resident has lived with diabetes for 30 years. Nearly 20 years ago, Carlson had quadruple bypass surgery.

Then in 2022, the retired salesman developed a sore above his left ankle that wouldn’t go away. Carlson says it was a significant-sized ulcer wound. He was afraid he was going to lose his foot. That’s when he went to see Dr. Samantha Cox.

Samantha Cox, DO, is a vascular surgeon with OSF HealthCare, who determined that Carlson needed limb salvage surgery as part of his care plan. Limb salvage is surgery to repair and restore a limb (arm, leg or foot) that’s diseased or injured. The surgery is an attempt to save a limb instead of opting for amputation.

(((SOT)))

Samantha Cox, DO, vascular surgeon, OSF HealthCare

“When it comes to limb salvage, he hits on all the pieces. He’s got arterial disease, he’s got venous disease, he’s got diabetes. He’s had a long-standing wound; all those things play into it.” (:11)

VO

Dr. Cox says it’s important to take a holistic view of limb salvage when attempting to improve someone’s lower extremity vascular disease. Surgery is becoming more common around the world as the number of people with diabetes increases.

Carlson had an extremely complex issue. In addition to his leg wound, Carlson had peripheral arterial disease (PAD), a condition where the arteries narrow and reduce blood flow to the arms or legs and causes pain. PAD can be the result of high cholesterol or diabetes.

Dr. Cox performed two surgeries on Carlson to repair the arterial and venous diseases. Then she fixed his wound before sending him to the wound care center for further treatment.

TAG

Carlson is happy to be back on his feet again. Carlson says his leg looks much better, and the circulation in his leg has improved. And he has no restrictions. He’s watching his six grandkids play sports and other activities.

(((SOT)))

Ron Carlson, vascular surgery patient

“I couldn’t really travel anywhere to go see them, to a sporting event or anything like that,” Carlson says. “Just lately, I’ve been able to make that distance in traveling, for an hour or two hours, whatever it takes to get to where they’re going. I can do that now.” (:19)