

It Takes a Team

Bayshore Community Hospital *George Stader is back to health after complex colon surgeries, thanks to the team at Bayshore Community Hospital.*

In August 2013, George Stader, 58, was diagnosed with rectal cancer. In March 2014, following months of radiation and chemotherapy, he underwent colorectal surgery at another hospital and then an emergency procedure for a large hole that had developed in the bowel. George spent almost three weeks in the hospital before returning home. Unfortunately, he knew something was still not right.

“My stomach was bulging in the middle and I had no control over my stomach muscles,” says George. “My son had previously seen Drs. Said Samra and Asaad Samra and received excellent care, so I decided to consult another member of the family, Dr. Salem Samra.”

According to **Salem Samra, M.D.**, a plastic surgeon at Bayshore, George had developed a giant ventral hernia and a nonhealing wound in the lower part of the scar due to the incisions from his previous surgery not healing correctly.

Unfortunately, surgery is required to correct this as it can lead to stress on the spine and, in some severe cases, twisting intestines and bowel obstructions.

In March 2014, George underwent an abdominal wall reconstruction. **Steven Tizio, M.D.**, a colorectal surgeon at Bayshore, removed scar tissue from the intestines and then performed a bowel resection to repair a fistula — an abnormal connection of the intestine to the skin that was causing George’s non-healing wound. Dr. Samra then performed a “component separation” hernia repair, in which abdominal wall tissues that have spread apart are sewn back together to close the hernia.

“Using George’s own muscles combined with a biological graft restored the integrity of George’s abdominal wall,” says Dr. Samra. “By bringing his abdominal muscles back together and then bolstering the repair with a tissue-engineered graft, we were able to make him whole again.”

According to Dr. Tizio, George is the ideal patient: healthy, fit, and motivated.

“His small intestine was adhered directly to the skin over his abdominal wall defect, more commonly known as a hernia,” says Dr. Tizio. “It was a very tedious operation to separate the small intestine from the hernia site without removing too much small intestine, as the resection of too much small intestine can put the patient at risk for gastrointestinal dysfunction and malnutrition.”

George spent a week in the hospital recovering after surgery.

According to Dr. Tizio, the first five years following colorectal cancer are the most crucial for post-treatment screening. George’s follow-up will include a carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) test three times a year to measure the amount of protein in his blood, and a colonoscopy one and three years following his initial surgery.

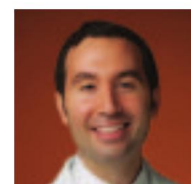
Since surgery, George has been able to get back on the ski slopes, which made Dr. Samra happy to hear during his follow-up visit.

“Drs. Samra and Tizio were miracle workers. It was a great experience and nice to know Bayshore is here for this kind of advanced treatment,” George says.

by Caitlin Coyle



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George Stader, a retired police officer, is back to boating with his family and friends on Long Beach Island after successful hernia surgery at Bayshore.

Video: Another Success Story



When Chris Henry was diagnosed with stage 2 colon cancer, she elected an aggressive course of chemotherapy. Today, Chris’ cancer is in remission and she’s enjoying life. Watch her story at MeridianCancerCareNJ.com.