

Daquain Jenkins was a 25-year-old father of three when he was first diagnosed with congestive heart failure. He received a pacemaker and defibrillator at a local hospital, but his condition continued to deteriorate. So much so that his cardiologist recommended he come to Mount Sinai for further treatment.

Doctors at Mount Sinai Health System evaluated Daquain and recommended he undergo a heart transplant. But a year after getting the donor heart, his body rejected it and his

new heart was failing rapidly. Daquain needed another heart transplant immediately. But this time, there was no suitable donor heart available. What was available, though, was a new mechanical heart which our doctors believed was the only hope of saving Daquain's life until a donor heart became available. In an 8-hour surgery, the Mount Sinai surgical team removed Daquain's weakened heart and replaced it with the new mechanical heart.

Daquain Jenkins became the first patient in the New York

metropolitan area to return home to await a heart transplant without a human heart, but with the assistance of a portable mechanical heart. The milestone was remarkable in a number of ways. First, the new mechanical heart replaced both failing heart ventricles and four heart valves, eliminating the risk of heart failure. By relying on a mobile power supply that he carried in his backpack to power the mechanical heart, Daquain was able to leave the hospital until a suitable donor heart was found.

While he waited, Daquain greeted every day with a smile, walking his three kids to the bus stop and taking online classes in web design. And when a donor heart became available, he traded in his mechanical heart, thankful for how it saved his life. He, however, has yet to trade in his smile.

For you. For life.

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WHILE DAQUAIN JENKINS WAITED FOR A NEW HEART, WE GAVE HIM A LOANER.

