

Cleveland Clinic Medical Milestones

1950s: George Crile Jr., M.D., pioneers conservative surgical techniques for treating breast and other cancers, achieving the same results with less disfiguring therapies than the then-standard radical mastectomy.

1958: Cardiologist F. Mason Sones Jr., M.D., develops coronary angiography, which allows doctors to view the heart and its vessels through moving X-rays. Angiography paves the way for the development of bypass surgery.

1963: Surgeons Ralph A. Straffon, M.D., Eugene F. Poutasse, M.D., And Willem A. Kolff, M.D., pioneer kidney transplantation, performing one of the first successful cadaver kidney transplants.

1967: Heart surgeon Rene Favaloro, M.D., pioneers coronary bypass surgery, which today saves tens of thousands of lives each year.

1991: Cardiothoracic surgeon Delos M. Cosgrove, M.D., pioneers aortic valvuloplasty, a procedure that allows surgeons to repair diseased heart valves.

1996: Cardiothoracic surgeons perform the 500th heart transplant at Cleveland Clinic since 1984. The Clinic maintains one of the country's largest cardiac transplantation programs while exceeding the national average survival rates.

1997: Surgeons perform the 2,000th kidney transplant at Cleveland Clinic.

1998: Cleveland Clinic otolaryngologist Marshall Strome, MD, performs the first successful total larynx transplant.

2002: Researchers at Cleveland Clinic discover a common gene mutation that could double a man's risk for developing prostate cancer.

2003: Cleveland Clinic scientists identify the first gene confirmed as a cause of coronary heart disease in humans. The gene, MEF2A, was discovered by methodically studying the genetic makeup of 21 members of an Iowa family plagued for generations by incidents of coronary artery disease and heart attack.

2004: Cleveland Clinic approves a facial tissue transplantation protocol for patients in need of facial resurfacing because of severe disfigurement resulting from burns, trauma, cancer or other medical conditions.

2005: Cleveland Clinic uses deep brain stimulation (DBS) to improve the functioning of a man left in a minimally conscious state after a traumatic brain injury.

2006: A team of researchers from Cleveland Clinic and its partners announce the discovery of a new virus in prostate tumors.

2007: An analysis of 42 medical trials conducted by Steven E. Nissen, M.D., found a drug commonly used to treat patients with diabetes, raises patients' risk of heart attack and cardiovascular death.

2008: Cleveland Clinic urologists performed the first live kidney donation through a single belly button incision.