

Keeping watch

Watchman procedure helps prevent strokes in people who can't use blood thinners

SOT

Dr. Abraham Kocheril [COACH-er-ull], OSF HealthCare cardiologist

"The atrium, instead of pumping blood, is sitting there quivering. So, blood flows slowly. It can form clots. Clots go wherever blood flows. The worst place would be out the aorta and up to the brain." (:12)

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Dr. Abraham Kocheril [COACH-er-ull], OSF HealthCare cardiologist

"There are some people who get on a blood thinner and start bleeding. They have to be taken off it. There are other people who, because of a bleeding history, never get started on a blood thinner. There are others who, because of lifestyle or other reasons, shouldn't be on a blood thinner." (:17)

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Dr. Abraham Kocheril [COACH-er-ull], OSF HealthCare cardiologist

"The person has to be sent to an appointment with a cardiologist who is not part of the implantation team. Someone who has no stake in whether the person says yes or no. The doctor goes through the risks and benefits of having a Watchman in. They give the person time to ask questions." (:21)

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Dr. Abraham Kocheril [COACH-er-ull], OSF HealthCare cardiologist

"There's very little to recover from in the atrium because we're not doing any cutting. It's just a plug going into the appendage. But there is a healing process there. Your body grows tissue over the device. The idea is as that tissue grows, the Watchman is completely sealed. It's as if there's no pouch there at all." (:21)