



Picture a very athletic 40 year-old man, one who lifts weights and completes 5K runs. And now picture all of it stopping suddenly. This is the story of Jeramiah Nord.

Jeramiah was an extremely active individual and led a very fulfilling life. He served his community as a firefighter and EMT. Then, starting in Fall 2012, he began feeling dizzy, so much so that his primary physician intended to send him to an Ear Nose Throat specialist for a possible inner ear problem or Meniere's disease. Before he even had the opportunity to see the ENT doctor, Jeramiah lost consciousness at work and an ambulance was called. He regained consciousness, said he felt fine and was not brought to the hospital. This however, was the start of a series of life threatening events and a condition called Premature Ventricular Contractions (PVCs) that changed Jeramiah's life.

#### November 6, 2012

While at the University of California where he worked, Jeramiah lost consciousness again, collapsed and hit the floor hard with his head. This time, he was taken to the hospital. There, the medical team examined him, gave him a head CT and EEG and diagnosed him with epilepsy. He was discharged the next day with anti-epileptic medication (which would later affect him severely with adverse side effects).

**For the first time, everything seems so promising. Very rarely do I think about the heart holding me back anymore. It [Stereotaxis] gave me my life back."**

#### November 11, 2012

Just four days after he was discharged, Jeramiah was brought to the hospital by EMTs after nearly losing consciousness again. They said he was suffering from tachycardia (a faster than normal heartbeat). With no proper diagnosis, Jeramiah was kept at the hospital overnight.

#### November 12, 2012

The next morning, he had a seizure and suffered a cardiopulmonary arrest in front of his family. The medical team immediately began resuscitative efforts and shocked his heart back to rhythm. This was the first of 27 shocks to keep him alive throughout the night. Since the local hospital was not equipped to treat cardiac diseases such as arrhythmia, the plan was to transfer him to UCSF Medical Center via helicopter. However, this was not an easy task. Jeramiah's condition was unstable and the insurance company was slow in giving the go-ahead. It was an emotional night for the Nord family, filled with anxiety, fear and anger. Finally, the authorization for transport was released.

In order to stabilize his condition prior to the transport, Jeramiah's medical team pumped his heart with anti-rhythmic medication to suppress the arrhythmia. When he was admitted to UCSF Medical Center, because of the high amount of medication to suppress his PVCs, the medical team was not able to perform an ablation successfully. As a result, they implanted a defibrillator and pacemaker, prescribed medication, and hoped for the best.

#### November 17, 2012

Five days after being admitted to UCSF Medical Center, Jeramiah was discharged. During his time at the hospital, his heart was shocked three additional times.

#### November 26, 2012

Nine days after his discharge, Jeramiah returned to work. Although the medication and implanted devices kept his condition somewhat stable, he often complained of dizziness and developed severe anxiety and was prescribed anti-anxiety medication. He was forced to eliminate all physical activities. He often lay on the couch and resorted to only walking the dog. For a man who was just beginning to train for his first triathlon, everything stopped. His quality of life deteriorated.

#### April 9, 2013

The implanted devices and medications were effective for a little while. However, after detecting too many PVCs, a second ablation was scheduled, just five months after his first. Following the procedure, the medical team commented that they "got most of the trigger spots" but only "time will tell." Although he had some hope, it was still anxiety provoking. Three days later, he was discharged and continued with his medication.

#### June 22, 2013

Two and half months later, while at home, Jeramiah's heart stopped. His defibrillator kicked in and shocked his heart back to rhythm. This happened two more times. Jeramiah's wife drove him immediately to the ER. At UCSF Medical Center, he was scheduled for a third ablation, but this time, with the Stereotaxis magnetic navigation system under the guidance of Dr. Nitish Badhwar.

Dr. Badhwar chose the Stereotaxis technology for Jeramiah because of its ability to reach all areas of the heart, including the more remote, harder to reach places (i.e. the ventricles, bottom chambers) that are normally difficult to access by manual ablation. Prior to Dr. Badhwar, the Nord family did not know Stereotaxis was an available treatment option.

Before the Stereotaxis procedure could even begin, Jeramiah's heart stopped eight more times and each time, he was shocked.

As Dr. Badhwar treated Jeramiah, his family waited in agony. Then, Jeramiah called his family from his hospital room. His procedure was completed in half the time they expected. The medical team was pleased with the results. Dr. Badhwar was very confident that the trigger causing diseased tissue was effectively destroyed by the pinpoint precision of the Stereotaxis technology. Among his three ablations, Jeramiah believes the Stereotaxis procedure was the quickest. He also felt the positive, confident assurance from his medical team immediately. In turn, he also felt more confident and relieved.

Jeramiah's medical team continued to monitor him closely overnight and the next day – no PVCs were detected.

#### June 25, 2013

Three days later, Jeramiah was discharged and this time, without medication. The very next day, he returned to work.

Though without incidences, Jeramiah was still very anxious but as time went by, he regained his confidence and his quality of life returned. Six months later, Jeramiah began playing softball again.

Now, at nearly one and half years later, Jeramiah has not had any PVCs. He has taken vacations and participated in activities he had eliminated for so long. He is enjoying life more and is excited that he can one day see his kids get married. When asked what he would share with other patients, Jeramiah wants them to know that "there's definitely life at the end of the tunnel. For the first time, everything seems so promising. Very rarely do I think about the heart holding me back anymore. It [Stereotaxis] gave me my life back."