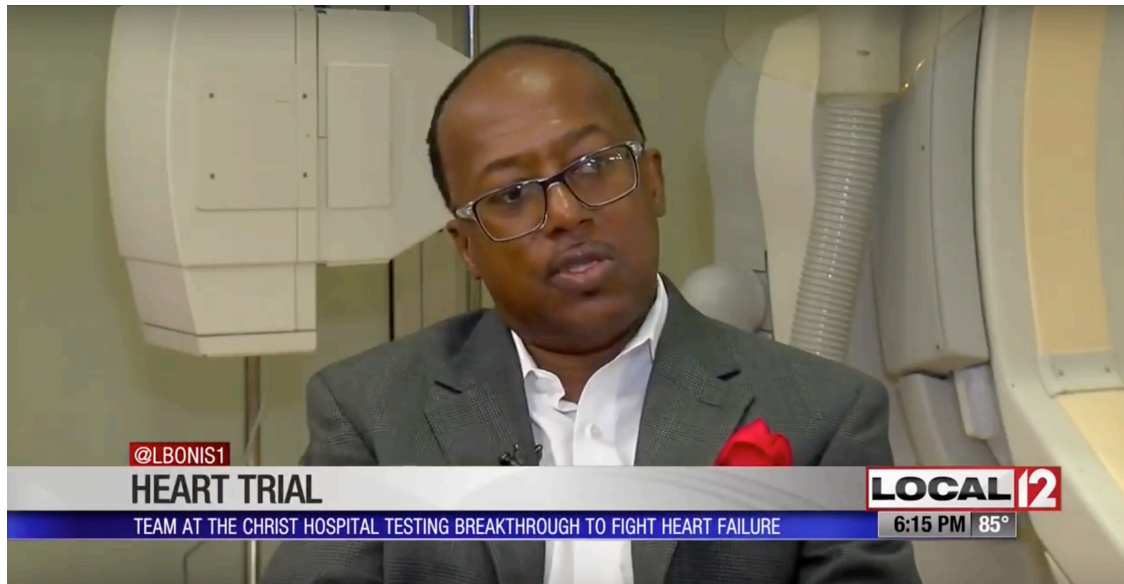


## The Christ Hospital team testing breakthrough treatment for heart failure



Link to video: <https://youtu.be/flQWDxb7FCM>

by Liz Bonis, WKRC

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MT. AUBURN, Ohio (WKRC) - Local heart specialists are among the first in the nation enrolling patients in a breakthrough trial to help save lives.

This trial is open to those who've been told they may have no other options for treatment of certain heart problems except very invasive or life-altering procedures, such as a heart transplant. A team at The Christ Hospital is conducting the trial.

Charles G. Jones is the first patient in the state of Ohio to receive the breakthrough technology as a participant. He struggled for years with heart complications.

"I almost passed out at a Bible study. They could never get my heart rate up," Jones said.

Dr. Dean Kereiakes and Dr. Satya Shreenivas say Jones was the perfect candidate for what's called the AccuCinch. The technology from Anchora Heart is being tested as part of this trial. The technology is inserted through a tiny tube called a catheter so anchors can be placed around the base of the heart. It is attached to a cable and the cable is cinched.

"When you cinch the cable, it decreases the size of the heart muscle. It's basically like a belt around the base of the heart to support the heart muscle so it doesn't have to work as hard, and if it doesn't have to work as hard, hopefully...you can start recovering. You can start healing," said Dr. Shreenivas.

In Jones' heart, it does appear to be doing what it's supposed to do. In his case, it's assisting with a rhythm and a valve disturbance that had enlarged his heart.

"We saw an immediate -- right after the procedure -- shrinking of his heart...it tucks the ventricle, and when it does that, the valve that's leaking, because it's being pulled apart, it either quits leaking or it reduces the amount of leak, which helps him as well," said Dr. Kereiakes.

Jones is one of about 15 so far to be enrolled in this nationwide trial.

"I've been doing very well. I really have," said Jones.

The hope is that others too will show similar remarkable success.

"The benefit continues to get better and better. The heart remodels itself, and this is the thing that is truly revolutionary," said Dr. Kereiakes.

This trial is still open for enrollment.