

Miller Kaapke

A lifelong structural and electrophysiology patient who brings the patient's view of the device, the trial and the procedure directly to the teams who build them.



10

HEART AND LUNG
SURGERIES

3

CARDIAC ARRESTS
SURVIVED

3

BI-V PACING SYSTEMS

1

FDA TRIAL: MELODY TPV

BIOGRAPHY

Miller was born with two rare congenital conditions: hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (HOCM) and pectus excavatum. At 18 months, a myectomy removed tissue obstructing flow above his aortic valve. It left him with subvalvular aortic stenosis, corrected by a Ross procedure that replaced his aortic valve with his own pulmonary valve.

At 11, the youngest of five growing up in suburban Arizona, he went into sudden cardiac arrest at home hours before school. His father performed chest compressions while his mother called emergency services and managed the household. After 40 minutes he was resuscitated. Weeks later he received his first pacemaker and began a lifelong career as an electrophysiology patient.

Three biventricular (Bi-V) pacing systems followed, with both epicardial and endocardial left ventricular (LV) leads, made harder by his chest anatomy. At 13, a failed endocardial LV lead attempt coincided with his second cardiac arrest. At 14, at NewYork-Presbyterian, a second attempt failed; an epicardial lead was placed, a lung was punctured, and a pleurodesis followed 3 weeks later.

At 29, after 11 years of bodybuilding, his LV lead had shifted and was pacing his diaphragm. Attempted lead extractions did not resolve it. The solution was EBR Systems WiSE, a newly FDA-approved leadless LV pacing system.

Miller is now a 12-year bodybuilder. He credits his life to the clinicians, engineers and device specialists in cardiology and medtech who have educated him, troubleshot with him and tuned his therapy for three decades.

SPEAKING TOPICS

The patient inside the trial

FDA trial participation, from the Medtronic Melody transcatheter pulmonary valve (TPV) study

Living with the device

Bi-V pacing systems, lead complications, EBR Systems WiSE leadless LV pacing

Heart failure, day to day

Congestive heart failure (CHF) and severe CHF, ejection fraction (EF), diet and exercise limits

Structural and electrical therapy

Ross, Melody TPV and transcatheter procedures, ablation, cardioversions

Educating the field

Pacemaker technology, sales and patient advocacy education

FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE

HOCM	Pectus excavatum
CHF / severe CHF	AFib / AFlutter
Myectomy	Ross procedure
Melody TPV (FDA trial)	EBR Systems WiSE
Ablation	Cardioversions
Lead extraction attempts	Pleurodesis
Epicardial and endocardial LV leads	

“I am proud to say I am made of Medtech, and that’s more than just the tangible pieces of metal in my body.”

MILLER KAAPKE