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Rugby with heart

Nick Isiekwe underwent open-heart surgery having had a dilated aorta diagnosed. His aorta should have been no wider than 3.8cm. It had reached 5cm. The procedure performed, Personalised External Aortic Root Support (Pears) enabled Nick to continue his professional rugby career. He was back playing for Saracens within four months of having his surgery.

A 3D model of his aorta was created and a bespoke synthetic mesh was developed and placed tightly over the aorta during open heart surgery. Nick's blood pressure was dramatically lowered but, unlike conventional surgery, there was no need to stop his heart and attach him to a heart-and-lung bypass machine. After theatre, Nick went to ICU to start his recovery.

"Coming out the other side of the operation, it gives you a different appreciation for life. You don't want to take those things for granted."

Nick was home after four days. "I have an overwhelming sense of gratitude to be able to continue playing rugby and for the unbelievable surgical work. It's revolutionary. I honestly can't thank them enough."



Photo: Getty Images



15 CQC
'Excellent' ratings



Clinical Nurse
Specialists



MDTs



Onsite ITUs

HCAHealthcare UK

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