

Danny Thrall: Back In The Swim Of Things.



Danny Thrall: Back In The Swim Of Things.



Danny Thrall knows how to move through the water. In high school, he was an all-American swimmer. And as a sophomore on the swim team at Fordham University in New York, his future in the sport held nothing but promise. **Until his blood pressure reading proved too high. His coaches held him out of the pool, robbing him of one of the loves of his life—but also possibly saving his life.**

As Danny tells it, “I grew up in Chicago and attended St. Ignatius College Prep for my four years of high school. I swam all four years, breaking several records and earning one all-American recognition. After high school, I moved to Florida to attend Lynn University in Boca Raton and stopped swimming competitively for a while. After about two months without swimming, I started to miss it and began attending masters’ swim practices at a local pool. Getting back in the pool, I realized I did not want to be finished with the sport on a competitive level.”

Danny eventually gained admission to Fordham. “It was my first choice because of the opportunity to swim in Division I and the chance to live in a big city once again,” said Danny.

“After my physical exam for swimming,” he continued, “I was informed that I would not be able to swim because of high blood pressure. The blood pressure was checked and rechecked and continued to turn up high. The Fordham University health center referred me to a cardiologist. After several tests, I was told that I was going to need to see a specialist at New York University in order to fully diagnose the problem.”

“It seemed extremely strange to me that there would be a problem involving my heart, considering I was feeling relatively fine. **The surgeon at NYU informed me that I would need to have open-heart surgery very soon in order to live.** When I received this news, I returned home to Chicago and started looking for heart surgeons with my parents.”

Danny was told that his aorta was enlarged. It had been overcompensating for a leaky valve, and surgery was, indeed, needed. Quickly.

The University of Chicago’s Dr. Jai Raman removed part of Danny’s aorta and the faulty valve, replacing them with mechanical versions.

Dr. Raman then closed Danny’s sternum with Biomet Microfixation’s SternaLock® System.

The SternaLock system is a sternal closure system that is intended for use in the stabilization and fixation of fractures of the anterior chest wall. The benefits of rigid fixation vs. wire sternal closure are increased stability^{1,2}, greater strength¹ and reduced sternal separation.¹

“Dr. Raman displayed lots of optimism about my return to competitive swimming,” said Danny. **“He informed me that with the help of the plates and screws connecting my sternum, instead of the wire only, they would increase the stability of my sternum and reduce its movement.”**

“The first days after surgery were extremely painful, as expected. I felt an extreme soreness in my back and chest. The pain started to subside about three weeks after surgery. By six weeks, the surgeon and cardiologist cleared me to start swimming lightly again. I started out swimming only about 500 yards a day and worked my way up from there. My chest felt fine throughout the first days of the swimming and didn’t interfere with my stroke or range of motion.”

“Today I am currently swimming and practicing full time on Fordham University’s swim team. My chest feels fine, and it is as if I never had heart surgery.”

As Danny Thrall knows, our SternaLock System is just one way we give people new hope in achieving their dreams.

One Surgeon. One Patient.SM

Over 1,000,000 times a year, Biomet products help one surgeon provide personalized care to one patient.



BIOMET®
MICROFIXATION
Anticipate. Innovate.™

This article is meant solely as a human-interest story and is not meant to constitute medical advice. While the patient in this story is a SternaLock® recipient, his results are not necessarily typical, indicative, or representative of all sternal patients. The SternaLock system has been used successfully in achieving restored mobility to many patients. However, as with any implanted device, there are factors affecting performance, which ultimately result in variable outcomes, including levels of mobility and pain. These factors include, but are not limited to, the patient’s pre and post-operative health conditions, weight, activity level, and adherence to instructions regarding the procedure. Due to these variables, it is not possible to predict specific results or patient satisfaction. For additional patient risk information please see appropriate package insert information on our website at www.biometmicrofixation.com. This is actual recipient of the SternaLock rigid fixation system. The patient in this story was not compensated. The patient in this article has consented to be named and has given Biomet, Inc. the exclusive right to use their personal and medical information for educational purposes. As the manufacturer of this device, Biomet Microfixation does not practice medicine and does not recommend this product for use on a specific patient. The surgeon who performs any implant procedure must determine the appropriate device and surgical procedure for each individual patient. All surgeries carry risks. For additional information, and information on these risks and warnings, please see package insert or visit our web site at www.biometmicrofixation.com or call 1-800-874-7711. SternaLock® is a registered trademark of Biomet Microfixation.

1. Pai S, Najmuddin J, Dupak EL, McMahon NL, Roth TP, Lalikos JF, Dunn RM, Francalancia N, Pinns GD, Billiar KL. In Vitro Comparison of Wire and Plate Fixation for Midline Sternotomies. Ann Thoracic Surgery 2005;80:962-8. Bench studies are not necessarily indicative of clinical performance. 2. Greater Stability and Earlier Bone Healing Song, HD, Agarwal JP, Jeevanadam V. Rigid Sternal fixation in the Cardiac Transplant Population. J. thoracic Cardiovascular Surg 2003; 12(3):896-7. Sargent LA, Seyfer AE, Hollinger J, Hinson RM, Graeber GM. The healing Sternum: A Comparison of Osseous Healing with Wire Verses Rigid Fixation. Ann Thoracic Surg 1991;52(3):490-4.