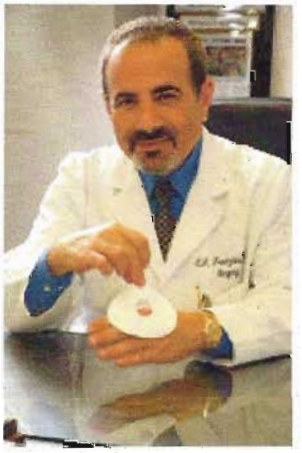
A fine mesh -- for hernias.

One-quarter of people over age 50 suffer from hiatal hernias, which occur when the upper part of the stomach moves up into the chest through a small opening in the diaphragm muscle. A large hernia (8 centimeters) typically requires surgery, since it can cause chronic heartburn, chest pain and difficulty in swallowing.



A mesh plug "corks" the hernia, the patch protects the site.

But with the traditional repair, in which the tissues comprising the diaphragm are sewn together to close the hernia, the diaphragm is susceptible to re-injury from coughing, sneezing or even laughing.

Surgeons at Rush are the first to show that suturing a mesh patch to the sides of the defect significantly reduces the recurrence of the hernia compared to the traditional approach. In the study, 72 patients were randomly assigned to either traditional surgery or surgery using the mesh patch.

"None of the patients receiving the mesh patch experienced a recurrence, while 22 percent who had the traditional repair did," says Constantine Frantzides, MD, director of the minimally invasive surgery program in the department of general surgery. at Rush. "This shows we can greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the need for additional hernia surgeries."

RELATED LINKS

Department of General Surgery

Read the latest edition of *RushRecord*.

Search news releases

Join our e-mail news release list!

Fast facts about Rush

Important numbers

"It's Happening at Rush" archive

STAFF & PHYSICIANS

Constantine Frantzides, MD
(312) 942-6511

Physician Referral Service
Phone: (312) 942-5555