



“[TCAR was] sort of like a relief off me in some way mentally, and physically I felt awesome.”

DONNA — TCAR Patient

Donna, a busy nurse manager in Opelika, Alabama, caught her carotid artery disease early after experiencing a small stroke and took action to help prevent a future stroke.

After experiencing a kaleidoscope-like vision for several seconds in her eye, Donna was alarmed but not overly concerned. When expressing her symptoms to her colleagues at Pinnacle Cardiovascular, Dr. Kevin Ryan overheard her conversation and recommended that she receive a carotid ultrasound.

After receiving the carotid ultrasound, Donna was informed that her vision impairment was actually the result of a minor stroke. She was quickly directed to Dr. Steven Lock at East Alabama Medical Center for a carotid endarterectomy to help prevent a major stroke from happening. This particular surgery carries a risk of injury to the cranial nerves causing issues with swallowing, speaking and sensation in the face.

“When he did the carotid endarterectomy, what they call the bifurcation of your vessels going to your brain, mine were so high that when he did the intervention, it can cause facial nerve damage,” said Donna.

When it came to the other side of her neck, Dr. Lock determined it would be better to operate with a less invasive stent procedure. **“With her history and everything, I felt like she would be a perfect candidate for TCAR,” he said.**

Donna was hesitant to receive another procedure with the risk of having additional facial nerve damage on both sides. After reviewing details of the TCAR procedure, Donna felt more confident and comfortable going into it.

Donna’s TCAR Experience

TCAR is done with a small incision just above the collarbone. During the procedure, a filtering system prevents debris from reaching the brain and causing a stroke by reversing the blood flow.

“By reversing the blood flow, you’re actually channeling it away from the brain. The reversed perfusion techniques actually are a huge improvement to reduce that risk,” said Dr. Kevin Ryan.

A stent is placed directly into the carotid artery to keep the plaque from moving, preventing future strokes.

After receiving the TCAR procedure, Donna had a quick recovery. She was able to walk herself out of the ICU the next morning with no facial nerve damage and itching to get back to work.

 **One in three strokes**
are caused by carotid artery disease¹

SILKROAD
MEDICAL®

To learn more about carotid artery disease, the TCAR Procedure and the associated risks and benefits, please refer to the ENROUTE Transcarotid Stent and Neuroprotection System patient guidebook. silkroadmed.com/disease-and-treatment-options/

1. Society of Vascular Surgery’s Patient Resources: vascular.org/patient-resources/vascular-conditions/carotid-artery-disease