



BROADCAST LIVE. Wally Katzke was put onto a heart and lung machine during the three hour procedure, which literally took over the job of keeping him alive while surgeons operated on a blocked artery in his heart.

ALEISHA TISSEN

NOW you've met Wally's heart, will you take better care of yours?

"This operation has roller-coasted into something huge, I'm taking each day at a time," said Wally Katzke, the 52-year-old businessman from Gauteng shortly before his open-heart surgery was broadcast live on SABC 3.

Saturday evening saw thousands of intrigued South Africans glued to their television sets as Doctor Martin Sussman and his team embarked on the open-heart single bypass surgery.

Doctors aim to reopen narrowed arteries that will lower Katzke's risk of a massive heart attack.

Katzke's agreement to have his operation broadcast live was to create public awareness about cardiovascular disease and a healthy lifestyle.

He joined forces with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of South Africa to create the "Meet Wally's Heart", television education initiative.

"It was a quick decision. It's for the good of many people and it will be a serious wake-up call for all of us. My

Wally's heart hits stardom

snip

Katzke says he had little choice to undergo the operation since his bad diet, smoking and lifestyle kept him at risk even after an angiogram in 1999.

main reason is to do it for my family as I want to be around to enjoy my grandchildren," he said.

Yesterday *The Citizen* spoke to Netcare Milpark Hospital spokesman Amelda Swartz who said: "Wally is still in intensive care and is being closely monitored but he is doing exceptionally well. He was taken off of the ventilator this morning."

For more on Wally's story, visit www.meetmyheart.co.za.

A dietician is also available on the Heart mark Diet Line, 0860-223-222.

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