



STAR PATIENT: Dr Martin Sussman operates on Wally Katzke at Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg

Wally doing well after heart bypass

GAUTENG businessman Wally Katzke is in a stable condition after his single bypass open-heart surgery — broadcast live on Saturday night.

Katzke volunteered, after consulting a medical team, to become the first heart patient to tell his cardiovascular disease story on the popular SABC show *3Talk*, hosted by Noeleen Maholwana-Sangqu. The show culminated with a special two-hour live broadcast on Saturday.

Katzke, a Johannesburg businessman, said he was overwhelmed by the media and public support he received last week.

He said his biggest fear was of “not making it”.

Katzke will be monitored closely for complications over the next 48 hours.

A spokesman for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Michelle Kearney, said: “We are grateful to Wally and his family for allowing us to document his story and hope that this hard-hitting message

has reached all South Africans and made them rethink their lifestyle and diet choices.”

A heavy smoker who led a sedentary lifestyle, Katzke had a mild heart attack in 1999 and had a stent [a tube inserted into a blood vessel to support it] implanted at the age of 44 to enable his clogged arteries to pump blood and oxygen more efficiently.

The surgery was performed by Gauteng cardiothoracic surgeon Martin Sussman and his team in Milpark Hospital.

Cardiologist Graham Cassel said the *Meet Wally's Heart* project showed that someone with heart disease can live a long, healthy life.

“Eating badly, drinking heavily, smoking, not exercising, being obese, poorly controlled diabetes — these are some of the major problems we have in our society and this initiative has made people aware of the problem,” he said. — *Staff reporter*

'We hope this will make people change their lifestyle'