

Rita Shappley undergoes open-heart surgery

Wednesday night, Jan. 27, 2021, Rita underwent open-heart surgery at the new cardiac unit of Cleveland Clinic, in Weston, FL, 12.5 miles south of where we live. Seven bypasses were performed by Dr. Jose Navia (5-star rating). Surgery lasted about 6 hours. When Dr. Navia came out of the operating room at 11:30 p. m., he stated he was happy with the procedure, considering it successful, adding that Rita's unusually small veins had made the operation a little more difficult.

As of today, Feb. 20, Rita has continued to heal well. After 7 days in the hospital, she was able to come home. As per orders from the doctor, nurses and therapists have come to the house, providing services to aid her recovery.

An old problem of low sodium has been aggravated by diuretics prescribed to eliminate fluids accumulated during surgery, resulting in two calls for her to come back to the hospital for relevant treatments.

For long years, Rita has been afflicted with high, often erratic, blood pressure. Various medicines have been prescribed, none proving to be as effective as needed. Her condition became more critical during the last few months. After a visit to her family doctor in January and two CT scans recommended by him, she took the scans to her cardiologist Monday, Jan. 25, and he sent her directly to Cleveland Clinic, with orders for a catheterization. The catheterization revealed severe blockages of arteries on both sides of the heart, and arrangements were quickly made for her to undergo open-heart surgery.

Your prayers that Rita may be blessed with a complete recovery will be most appreciated.

With brotherly love in Christ,

Dewayne Shappley

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