

Surgical advances in the treatment of the dilated aortic root

ExoVasc® Personalised External
Aortic Root Support (PEARS)

London Bridge Hospital

part of **HCA**Healthcare UK

Introduction to London Bridge Hospital

In the heart of London on the banks of the River Thames, London Bridge Hospital provides multi-specialty, complex and acute care. Here you'll find the latest proven treatments, supported by ever-advancing surgical techniques and related technology. This includes Level 3 intensive care units and the UK's first fully integrated robotics theatre. The Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of health and social care in England, gave the hospital its highest rating of 'Outstanding' in 2017.



Mr Conal Austin, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Cardiac care at London Bridge Hospital

We host an enviable list of cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, leaders in this rapidly advancing field of medicine. Our specialists perform the full range of adult cardiac procedures, such as minimal access mitral valve repair and Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI), as well as managing the most challenging heart rhythm abnormalities.

ExoVasc® Personalised External Aortic Root Support (PEARS)

Here at London Bridge Hospital we're proud to have Mr Conal Austin, one of our nation's leading Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeons, performing the ground-breaking ExoVasc® Personalised External Aortic Root Support (PEARS) procedure.

The PEARS procedure was designed by Tal Golesworthy, a Chartered Engineer who was born with Marfan syndrome and diagnosed with a dilated aorta. Faced with the prospect of open heart surgery and a lifetime of anticoagulant medication, the talented engineer decided to design his own life-saving solution.

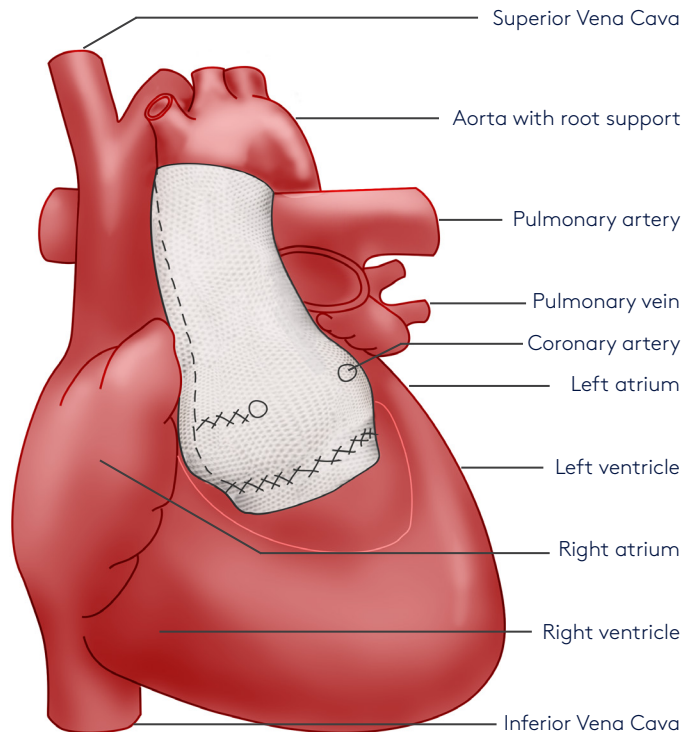
What does a PEARS procedure involve?

The first stage of treatment involves having a CT scan which is used to construct a 3D model of the aortic root. From this, a bespoke, external aortic root support, precisely fitted to the patient's aorta, is produced. This is then surgically placed around the aortic root to prevent further dilation. The procedure is appropriate for adult patients who have been diagnosed with a dilating aortic root due to connective tissue disorders such as Marfan syndrome (MFS), Bicuspid Aortic Valve Disease and some adult congenital heart diseases.

PEARS is an innovative, life-changing procedure

The benefits of PEARs

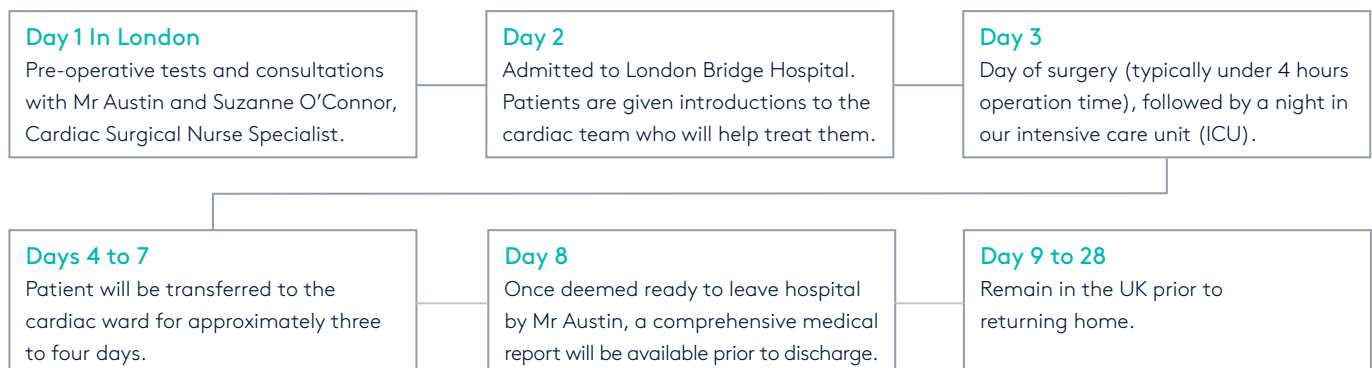
- Aortic support surgery can be performed earlier than traditional surgery, thereby reducing the risk of aortic root rupture.
- The operation time is shorter (typically under four hours). It is usually without cardiopulmonary bypass, which reduces the recovery time.
- No requirement for anticoagulant therapy and associated side effects, unlike traditional aortic surgery.
- The root support dramatically reduces the likelihood of further surgery.
- It offers total repair of the aorta, allowing patients to return to normal activity and life.



The international patient journey

Diagnostics: up to six weeks prior to travel

A CT scan can be carried out at your local hospital (to a PEARs CT protocol) to assess viability for the PEARs procedure, and to provide measurement for the ExoVasc support. Imaging will be reviewed at London Bridge Hospital by Mr Austin and the cardiac radiology team. CT images are then sent to ExoVasc® for the production of the aortic root support.



Returning home

After leaving hospital, Suzanne O'Connor will continue to provide ongoing support with weekly follow-up calls, usually for the first six weeks. If any additional assistance and support is required, patients are always able to contact our cardiac nurses 24 hours a day, through our cardiac ward.

Here to support you

Your clinical team

Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Mr Conal Austin, is the leader in the field of PEARS, and has performed more procedures than any other surgeon in the UK. Alongside Mr Austin is the rest of the team including cardiologists and surgeons from London's top NHS teaching hospitals. They are supported by cardiac perfusionists, cardiac physiologists, Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) and rehabilitation physiotherapists.

Suzanne O'Connor, our Cardiac Surgical Nurse Specialist, will be there to support you throughout your stay and monitor your recovery on a daily basis from Monday to Friday. Alan Rayner, Chief Cardiac Perfusionist, oversees the PEARS programme.

We also have a team of inpatient physiotherapists who will take care of your inpatient rehabilitation and provide you with a personalised home exercise programme following discharge. Dieticians will see you the day after your transfer from the cardiac ward to offer nutritional advice.

Our concierge team, led by Paulo Silva, can also help with transport and accommodation for you and your family.



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For more information on PEARS,
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