

## Mayo Clinic Minute

### Awake brain surgery

<b>Video</b>	<b>Audio</b>
<b>Vivien Williams</b>	Brain surgery has come a long way.
<b>Bernard Bendok, M.D.</b> <b>Neurosurgery</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	“Twenty years ago, if someone woke up moving their legs and arms and speech from brain surgery, we gave them a thumbs up, and that was it.”
<b>Vivien Williams</b>	Now, Neurosurgeon Dr. Bernard Bendok says well before an operation happens, surgeons know their patients’ hobbies and occupations ...
<b>Bernard Bendok, M.D., at 10:49</b>	... “What really defines who you are” ...
<b>Vivien Williams’</b>	... so that during the operation, they can better preserve the part of the brain that makes a painter paint or a violinist play.
<b>Violinist</b>	(sound)
<b>Vivien Williams</b>	But, to do this, patients have to be awake during surgery.
<b>Patient</b>	(sound in surgery)
<b>Bernard Bendok, M.D.</b>	“They say, “Why, why, you want me awake? What are you talking about?”
<b>Vivien Williams</b>	Patients are asleep most of the time, but when surgeons work around parts of the brain that control things such as speech or fine motor skills, the patient wakes up. The surgeon then probes that part of the brain, which has no nerves, so it doesn’t hurt, to make sure they’re not damaging function. (sound)
<b>Vivien Williams</b>	Brain surgery can be scary. But awake surgery allows doctors to operate more safely, and it allows many patients to get back to a full life.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Vivien Williams.

