

France announces second artificial heart transplant

8 September 2014

France last month carried out the second transplant of a new-generation artificial heart, Health Minister Marisol Touraine said Monday.

Touraine said the transplant took place on August 5 at the university hospital in the western French city of Nantes and went well.

The operation came nearly six months after the first recipient, 76-year-old Claude Dany, who had been gravely ill with a heart condition, died two-and-a-half months after receiving the [experimental device](#).

"This intervention confirms that heart transplant procedures are entering a new era," Touraine said in a statement. She did not give other details.

The artificial heart, a unit implanted in the patient's chest, uses soft "biomaterials" intended to lessen the risk of [blood clots](#) and rejection by the immune system. It is powered by a belt of [lithium batteries](#).

Nearly 100,000 people in Europe and the United States are in need of a heart transplant, according to its maker, Carmat, which plans to test the device for feasibility on four people.

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