



Media Contact: Pam Garretson
973-971-4932
Pamela.Garretson@atlanticehealth.org

Gagnon Heart Hospital
100 Madison Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07962

For Immediate Release

EMERGENCY HEART SURGERY SAVES YOUNG FATHER, POLICE OFFICER

Wife Delivers Couple's Second Child While Husband Recovers from Dissected Aorta

MORRISTOWN, NJ, JUNE 16, 2008 – Quick collaboration, expertise, and his newborn son helped to save a 41-year-old Newton police officer at the [Gagnon Heart Hospital at Morristown Memorial Hospital](#) after he suffered a life-threatening dissected aorta in late March.

While the Seville family was preparing for the arrival of their second child, John Seville suddenly felt ill on Sunday, March 30. His family grew more concerned when he acted strangely, had moments of amnesia, and felt his leg go cold. Seville originally went to a community hospital, but was transferred via helicopter to Morristown Memorial Hospital, a regional trauma center with an advanced cardiac surgery program. At the Gagnon Heart Hospital at Morristown Memorial, Seville received an echocardiogram and then his life-threatening diagnosis: aortic dissection.

The aorta is the largest artery in the body and delivers blood to all major organs including the brain and kidneys. An aortic dissection is a tear in the lining of the aorta, which occurs when high blood pressure shears the aorta's inner lining and instead sends blood into the aortic wall.

"It's like being on Route 287, going southbound in the northbound lane. You can see the exit you need, but you just can't get there," said [James Slater, MD](#), cardiac surgeon at Gagnon who performed Seville's five-hour emergency surgery to replace part of the aorta and a valve.

Because blood and oxygen were unable to feed Seville's organs, his recovery was slow. Seville drifted in and out of consciousness for several days until a nurse in the Cardiac Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (CPACU) whispered to Seville that he needed to wake up — he was a daddy again. Levi Seville was born at Morristown Memorial on Thursday, April 3. Nurses in the Maternity Center and in the CPACU worked together to allow Connie Seville, John's wife, to visit with their newborn child.

Since the day of his son's birth, Seville has made steady progress. He was able to return home just before Father's Day.

An [article](#) about John Seville and the physicians and nurses who treated him ran in the Star Ledger; a television segment is slated to air on [ABC World News](#).

The [Gagnon Heart Hospital](#) encompasses Overlook Hospital and Morristown Memorial's [cardiac services](#) with a 200,000-square-foot facility under construction on the Morristown campus.

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