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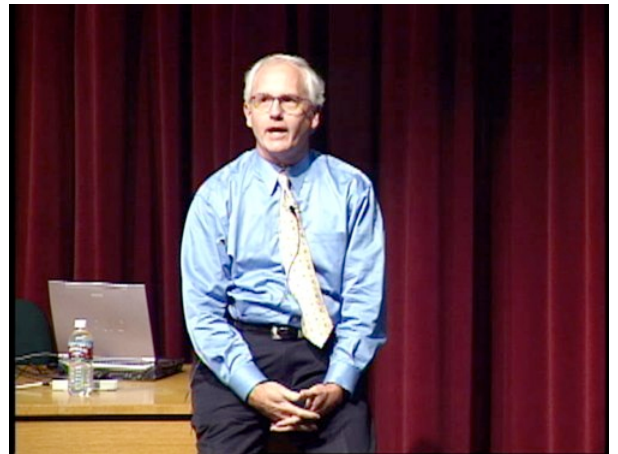
Coronary Angioplasty: Andreas Geruntzig

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/443/Coronary-Angioplasty-Andreas-Geruntzig>

Yock talks about the fundamental problem of applying the balloon technology to dilating the heart narrowing. The balloon was too compliant. He talks about the development of a balloon that actually worked.



Transcript

There was one fundamental problem though with applying the Fogarty balloon to dilating these hard narrowings and that was problem was that that the substance of plaque, the stuff that builds up inside of arteries, is really quite hard, and the balloon they had was a soft compliant balloon that just didn't have enough force. It was too compliant to open up these narrowing. So the fellow who gets credit for starting coronary angioplasty, that's the fixing in vessels, is this fellow right here, Andreas Geruntzig, appropriately gets credit. He did the first coronary case in 1977. The truth is that he and his university hospital in Zurich, he was just the down street from ETH, the Swiss engineering think-tank university, and there was a Palmer chemist so there's always an engineer right behind any profound innovation. And that was true here, there was a Palmer chemist who understood polyethylene and developed the balloon that actually worked.