

For the eight years that he was Vice President, Dick Cheney was in the news often because of recurring heart problems.

Now, the 71-year-old Cheney has gotten a heart transplant...raising questions of possible favoritism, and whether he's too old for such a procedure. Dr. Prem Rabindra, a heart surgeon at Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse, believes that Cheney wouldn't have gotten a transplant if doctors didn't think he needed it, and could handle it.

Although Gundersen does not perform heart transplants, Rabindra says the hospital may soon begin implanting ventricular pumps, which Cheney had before his transplant. Madison and Rochester are the cities closest to La Crosse where heart transplants are done.