

# HOW TO RECYCLE A MISUSED LEFT INTERNAL THORACIC ARTERY: TIPS AND TRICKS

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## Abstract

In this case report we describe how to recycle the Left Internal Thoracic Artery (LITA) when misused but not damaged. 8 years after a Left Anterior Small Thoracotomy followed by LAD stenting for STEMI in 1st post-operative day, a 67 years old woman had a NSTEMI with angiographic evidence of intra-stent re-stenosis with a perfectly patent LITA, harvested only from the 4th to the 6th intercostal space. During redo surgery, LITA was harvested as a pedicle from the anastomosis to the 4th intercostal space and primarily from the 1st to the 4th intercostal space. Special attention was paid at the level of the 4th intercostal space where the vessel was stuck to the sternum: a 15 blade was used being scissors or cautery too dangerous. At the end of harvesting, the LITA was full-length available for a new coronary anastomosis on LAD, distal to the previous one.

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