

Zimbabwe: Doctors to perform first heart surgery since 2003

January 15 2016

A surgeon says doctors will perform open heart surgery in Zimbabwe for the first time in over a decade.

Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care Adrian Musiiwa on Thursday unveiled a \$300,000 heart and lung machine bought in Ireland.

Cardiothoracic surgeon David Chimuka said 10 children with [congenital heart defects](#) will be the first patients in early February. Surgeons are now also able to perform lung and kidney transplants.

Chimuka, who will lead the surgeries, said up to 150 people will undergo surgery this year from a waiting list that includes over 400 children and adults.

The surgeon said more than half of patients awaiting surgery have already died.

The last heart surgery in Zimbabwe took place in 2003 before the health care system collapsed due to economic problems.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Zimbabwe: Doctors to perform first heart surgery since 2003 (2016, January 15) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-01-zimbabwe-doctors-heart-surgery.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.