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**FIRST SUCCESSFUL PANCREAS-ONLY TRANSPLANT
COMPLETED BY MEDICAL SCHOOL SURGEON**

The first successful pancreas-only transplant in Nevada was completed recently by Jose Zamora, M.D., chief of transplant surgery at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Marval Rivie, a 42 year-old Las Vegas woman, underwent a successful pancreas transplant last Friday, seven years after receiving a kidney transplant. That transplant was performed at UMC using a kidney donated by her brother.

Since a pancreas transplant allows the patient to produce insulin, many problems related to diabetes are eliminated, including recurrent damage in the transplanted kidney, eye, nerve, muscle and bone damage.

"Pancreas-only transplants are not often performed, primarily because there is no available test for pancreas rejection, and insurance companies have been reluctant to

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cover the surgery," says Dr. Zamora. As a result of Mrs. Rivie's pancreas transplant, which her insurance did cover, she no longer suffers from diabetes. Since the surgery, she is recuperating at home and no longer needs the insulin necessary to control the diabetes she had before the pancreas transplant.

"Forty percent of people on kidney dialysis are diabetics," says Dr. Zamora.

"Pancreas transplants are enormously helpful in preventing the progression of diabetic disease and thereby improves the quality and length of life. It may even make a kidney transplant less necessary if it were performed earlier in the patients' life."

Dr. Zamora began directing the University of Nevada School of Medicine's department of transplant surgery in 1996. Since then, five successful kidney-pancreas combination transplants have been completed and now the first pancreas-only transplant.