This preliminary report shared the results from animal studies, but by May of that same year, Mayo Clinic had initiated use of the apparatus for human subjects and reported on the outcome in 8 cases. These patients had the following conditions: (1) ventricular septal defect, (2) Tetralogy of Fallot, or (3) persistent common atroventricular canal. Four of the patients survived the surgery, one died shortly after the procedure, two died 3 hours postoperatively, and one died 6 days postoperatively.

Mayo Clinic continued to study and develop successful surgical treatments in cardiology throughout the ensuing years. More than 60 years have passed since these first attempts, and success in cardiac surgery is directly related to these courageous research pioneers and patients. This historical line of research in cardiology also represents another successful collaboration between the field of medicine and industry. International Business Machines (IBM) aided in the design and development of the Mayo Gibbon Heart-Lung Bypass Machine.

References