

Patient breathing easy after procedure

A RINGWOOD father says he has been given his life back after a revolutionary procedure helped treat his emphysema.

Eddie Osborne, 67, was diagnosed with emphysema in 2012. He had given up smoking the year before but was found to have critical lung damage. At the time, Mr Osborne questioned whether life was “worth hanging around for”.

But this all changed when his wife, Christine, saw a story about a new procedure at Epworth Eastern Hospital.

Respiratory physician Dr Nick Wilsmore specialised in endobronchial valve therapy, where a tiny one-way valve is inserted through the nose and mouth to block the airflow to diseased parts of the lung and improve the flow of air to healthy parts.

The diseased region of the lung shrinks in size and healthier regions expand and function more efficiently, meaning improved breathing, ability to exercise and quality of life.

“I went from not being able to walk up the small hill behind my house, to being able to walk and play nine holes of golf,” Mr Osborne said.

He now speaks with other patients about their options and prepares them for what to expect during the treatment process.

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Eddie Osborne, with wife Christine, is back to enjoying old hobbies such as driving his 1962 E-Type Jaguar. Picture: STEVE TANNER