**WASTING MILLIONS**

**Madeleine McCann’s dad warns thousands of people are having unnecessary heart op at £60m cost to NHS due to ‘highly inaccurate’ test**

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**AN approved heart test is “highly inaccurate” and could be causing thousands of patients to have unnecessary surgery, a heart doctor has warned.**

Professor Gerry McCann warned that the needless heart ops could be costing the NHS £60 million a year.

Professor Gerry McCann claims thousands of people are undergoing unnecessary heart ops

The cardiologist, who is the father of Madeleine McCann who has been missing since 2007, led a study by the University of Leicester to determine whether exercise testing was the best way to determine the need for surgery.

Exercise [testing has been used to assess people with the heart valve condition](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/1773133/thousands-of-patients-denied-life-saving-heart-test-by-penny-pinching-health-service/) aortic stenosis (AS) since 2012.

Patients are asked pedal a stationary bike to see if they require surgery to correct the problem, caused by a narrowing of the aortic valve opening.

But a study published in the European Heart Journal shows that the test only has a 60 per cent accuracy rate, suggesting many patients are sent for surgery prematurely.

Each year in the UK about 10,000 aortic valve replacements are carried out at a cost of up to £15,000 per procedure.

According to the new findings, roughly 40 per cent of these operations may be unnecessary.

There is a risk that those with aortic stenosis will die after the operation to correct it

Professor Gerry McCann, from the university department of cardiovascular sciences, who led the study of 174 patients, said: “There is no doubt that valve replacement therapy is highly effective for patients with symptoms, however there are risks involved.

“It’s a major operation and there’s a one per cent [chance of people dying or having a stroke during or after.](https://www.thesun.co.uk/living/2581316/quick-40-blood-test-predicts-your-risk-of-fatal-heart-attack-in-the-next-seven-years/)

“There’s also the chance they could develop an infection