



## **Marketa Dolnik, MD**

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Dr. Marketa Dolnik's curiosity was aroused after observing postoperative bleeding in patients following coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG). She wondered if the intraoperative use of a commonly-used volume expander called hetastarch could be the cause.

To find out, she led a team in designing a double-blinded randomized clinical trial to investigate the question. Her study findings published in *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (September 2009) were strong and definitive – the intraoperative administration of hetastarch does indeed carry an increased risk of bleeding following CABG.

Her study significantly adds to the body of knowledge about hetastarch use during bypass surgery and has changed the practice of using hetastarch at Kaiser Permanente and throughout the larger medical community.

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