

Mitchell Has

Surgery—

Doing Well

Washington

Former Attorney General John Mitchell successfully underwent surgery yesterday to repair a blood vessel leading from his heart.

Surgeon Charles Hufnagel said the three-hour operation at Georgetown University Hospital "went well and Mitchell is in good condition."

Mitchell, 64, convicted and imprisoned for conspiracy in the Watergate coverup, is on medical furlough from federal prison camp at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Doctors treating him for an arthritic hip discovered he had a ballooned blood vessel — known as an aneurysm — in his abdomen, and got the furlough extended for yesterday's surgery.

They said that Mitchell's condition involved a weakened branch of the aorta, the artery that leads from the heart, and that a rupture of that vessel could have killed him.

Mitchell, who is serving a term of one to four years on the Watergate charges, will also have to undergo surgery for the hip ailment in about two months.

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