

# Health & Science

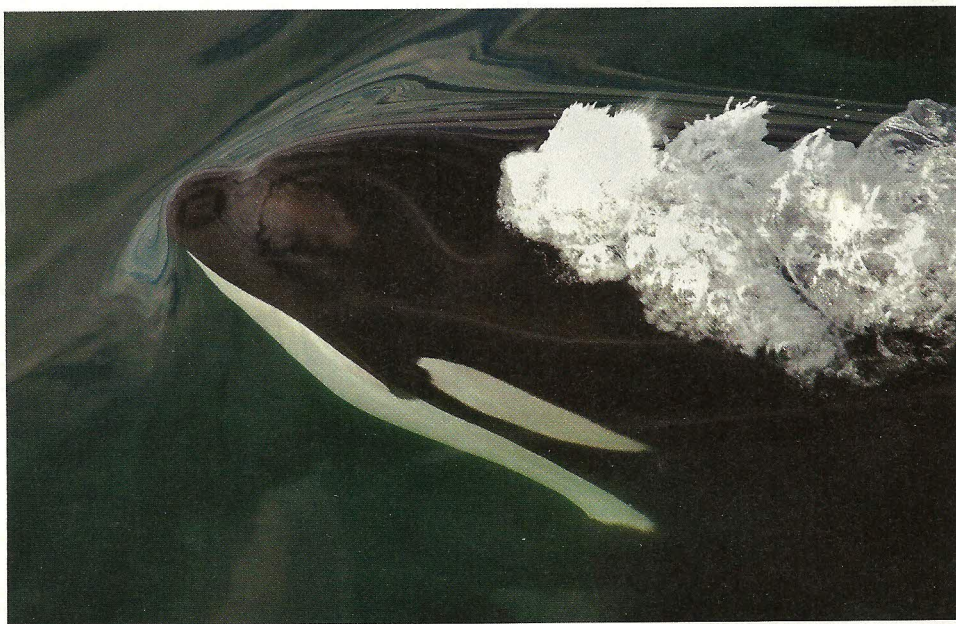
## Can Anesthesia Cause ADHD? How surgery may affect children's behavior

By Alice Park

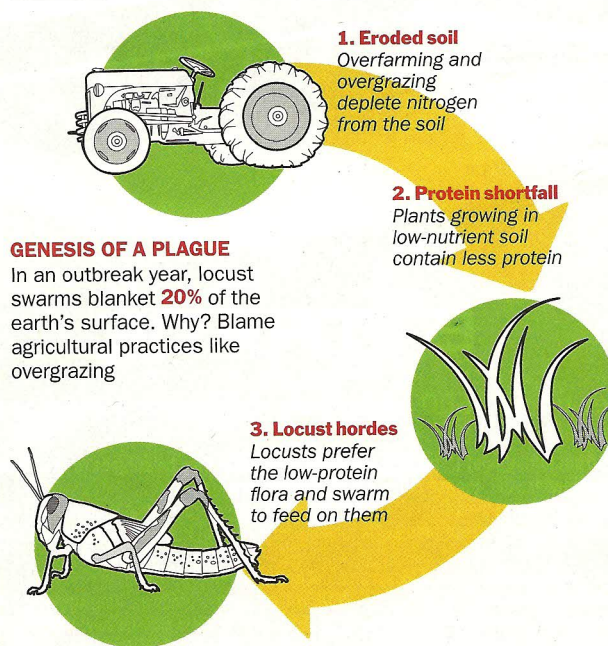
ANY OPERATION INVOLVES RISKS, but the hazards for the youngest surgical patients may last longer than doctors thought. After analyzing the health records of 5,357 children, researchers found that those who had undergone two or more surgeries by the time they were 2 years old were twice as likely to be diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) by age 19 as children who had had only one surgical procedure.

The researchers suggest that one reason for the higher rates of ADHD may be anesthesia. Shutting down a child's brain, even temporarily and under controlled conditions, could interfere enough with the normal development of cognitive networks to contribute to mental and behavioral problems later. In previous work, the same scientists documented a doubling of learning disorders in children who had had multiple surgeries by the time they were 2.

Still, that doesn't necessarily mean that anesthesia *causes* ADHD. Although the scientists adjusted for other contributing factors like whether the babies were born prematurely or had other health conditions, they said it's still possible that the medical conditions requiring some children to have multiple surgeries in the first place may be driving their risk of ADHD.



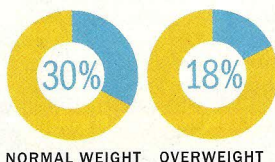
**KILLER DIET** Orcas are already the top predator of the oceans, and because of warming temperatures and melting sea ice, their Arctic killing grounds are expanding, threatening the marine ecosystem. They're eating fewer fish and more aquatic mammals like seals and baleen whales twice their size.



## CANCER Pink Protest

Women's health and anti-abortion advocates are clashing over the decision by leading breast-cancer organization Susan G. Komen for the Cure to stop providing funds for breast-cancer screening to Planned Parenthood centers. Komen for the Cure said a newly adopted policy prevents it from supporting any group under government investigation; Congress is currently probing whether Planned Parenthood improperly funded abortions with federal money intended for reproductive education and services. Many breast-cancer survivors remain unconvinced, noting that Komen has been under pressure from conservative groups since its partnership with Planned Parenthood began in 2005. —A.P.

Percentage of doctors who discussed weight with patients



## OBESITY Physician, Weigh Thyself

What does your doctor have to do with your weight? More than you might think. In a study of M.D.s and their care of heavy patients, doctors who were overweight or obese were less likely than their slimmer peers to discuss weight loss with their overweight or obese patients—especially if their patients weren't as heavy as they were.