

Head Transplants

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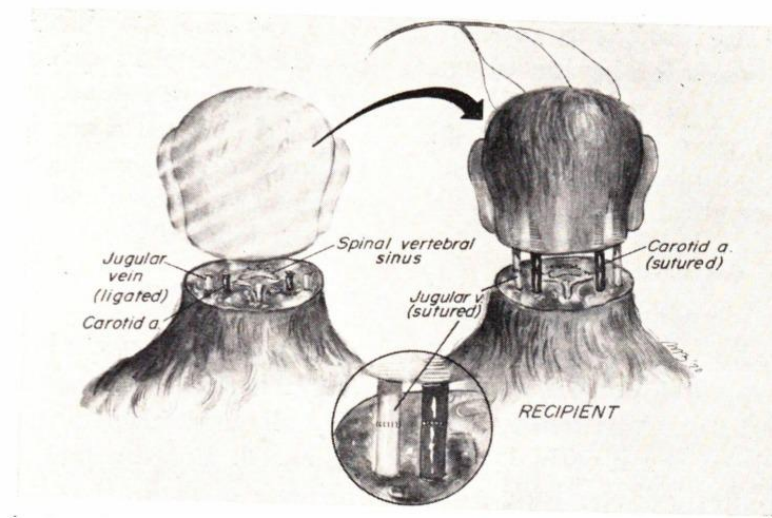
History

- In the early 1900s, this concept was introduced.
- Dr. Alexis Carrel created a successful technique.
- In 1908, the first head transplant was performed on a dog.



History continued...

- In 1954, a canine head transplant was attempted by Dr. Vladimir Demikhov.
- In 1970, Dr. Robert White performed the first cephalic exchange in primates.



Plan and Implementation

- Will change the medical field
- Save patients who are terminal in the body, but not in the brain
- Would need to rebuild connections between the brain and body
- Couldn't save patients from old age
- Last resort treatment



Positives

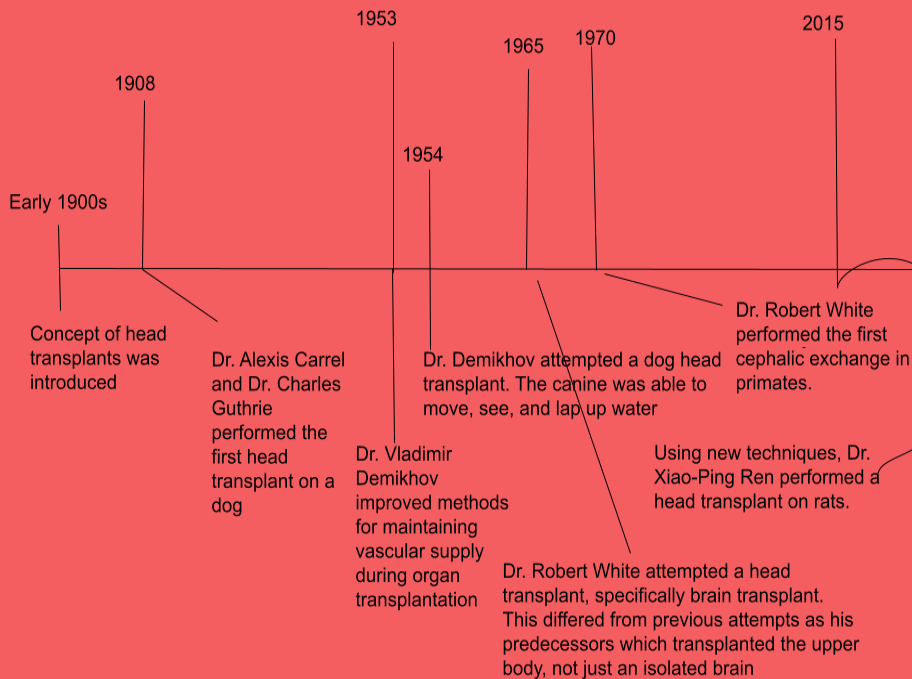
- Life saving for recipients with terminal conditions.
- Recipients would view the procedure as “ a gift of life”.
- Relief that their life-threatening illness has ended.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE," WHITE RECALLS, "WE PROVED THAT THE BODY WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A POWER PACK."

Negatives

- Neuropathic pain
- Rejection of the donor body
- Limited success in ones done on animals
- Moral and ethical issues
- Using one donor body for one recipient instead of multiple
- Needed medical care for years

Chart



Summary

Emily Jenson:

Although I find this concept interesting, I do not support the advancement of this. Even if done successfully, the outcome does not result in a good quality of life for the recipient. Not only is it painful, but there is the chance of mental health problems. Another issue that I have with this procedure is that a body is being used to save one person, instead of organ donation which can help up to 15 people.

Brooke Bowen:

I am against the advancement of this technology because there is a big chance the donor body will be rejected. But it will also take years to reestablish the connection between the body and the brain which can lead to poor living conditions. I also believe that one donor body should be used to help multiple people, instead of one procedure that will most likely be unsuccessful.

References

[Surgical, ethical, and psychosocial considerations in human head transplantation](#) -

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[The Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste](#) - Published 1997

[The History of Head Transplantation: A Review](#) - Published Oct. 14, 2016

[What to expect from a head transplant](#) - Brandon Peters, Updated on August 04, 2020