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Does the heart transplant change personality!?

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Abstract:

Some studies have shown the importance of the heart in the formation of personality and the extent of impact when replacing the heart.

In this report, results from the number allocated to understand and determine the extent of personal impact of the heart, as it denied the prevailing beliefs of personality affected by the nervous system.

Introduction:

A heart transplant, or a cardiac transplant, is a surgical transplant procedure performed on patients with end-stage heart failure or severe coronary artery disease when other medical or surgical treatments have failed. Organ donors may be doing more than just saving lives. They may be giving a new life and new personality to organ transplant recipients .

Personality is defined as the set of habitual behaviors, cognitions and emotional patterns that evolve from biological and environmental factors.^[1] While there is no generally agreed upon definition of personality, most theories focus on motivation and psychological interactions with one's environment . So, in this report the discussion will be about the effect of heart transplantation on personality .

Discussion:

Heart transplantation is not simply a question of replacing an organ that no longer functions. The heart is often seen as source of love, emotions, and focus of personality traits. To gain insight into the problem of whether transplant patients themselves feel a change in personality after having received a donor heart.

The First Study 47 patients (45 men, two women) who were transplanted over a period of 2 years in Vienna, Austria, Three groups of patients could be identified 79% stated that their personality had not changed at all postoperatively. In this group, patients showed massive defense and denial reactions, mainly by rapidly changing the subject or making the question ridiculous. Fifteen per cent stated that their personality had indeed changed, but not because of the donor organ, but due to the life-threatening event. Six per cent (three patients) reported a distinct change of personality due to their new hearts.^[2]

The Second Study The set of cases reported here are representative of more than 74 transplant cases, 23 of whom were heart transplants, that were brought to Pearsall's attention over the past 10 years (Pearsall, 1998). Ten cases showed a change in personality and a clear impact on the heart of the donor .^[3]

The Third Study At the School of Nursing at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, researchers sought to evaluate whether changes experienced by organ transplant recipients were parallel to the history of the donor. Researchers focused on 10 patients who received a heart transplant and found two to five parallels per patient post-surgery in relation to their donor's history. The parallels that were observed in the study were changes in food, music, art, sexual, recreational, and career preferences in addition to name associations and sensory experiences. In the study, a patient received a heart transplant from a man who was killed by gunshot to the face, and the

organ recipient then reported to have dreams of seeing hot flashes of light directly on his face, these cases support the cell memory theory.^[4]

Conclusion:

Finally, previous studies have concluded that, despite the prevailing idea about the formation of personality from the nervous system, has proved the opposite and the extent of the impact of the large and clear heart on the personality.

From this heart proves its essential role not only in pumping blood but also in the composition of personality.

References:

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