

Man gets first ever pig-heart transplant

13th January, 2022



Doctors in the USA have transplanted a pig's heart into a man. It is the first time this has happened. The doctors are from the University of Maryland Medical Center. They say David Bennett, 57, is doing well after his operation. Mr Bennett was very ill. The

doctors said giving him the pig's heart was the only chance of keeping him alive. Bennett spoke to doctors the day before the operation. He said: "It was either die or do this transplant. I want to live. I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice." The pig's heart came from a genetically-modified pig. Scientists changed the genes of the pig so its heart would be more suitable for a transplant into a human.

The transplant operation took seven hours. Doctors received special permission from U.S. authorities for the experimental surgery. Without it, Mr Bennett would have died. Scientists have been researching pig-organ transplants for years. They believe Mr Bennett's transplant means more transplants could take place in the future. They said this could bring the world, "one step closer to solving the organ shortage crisis". Surgeon Dr Bartley Griffith said: "We are also optimistic that this first-in-the-world surgery will provide an important new option for patients in the future." Mr Bennett hopes his transplant will allow him to live longer. He said: "I look forward to getting out of bed after I recover."

Sources: bbc.com / theage.com.au / sciencealert.com

Writing

Animal organ transplants will help people in the future. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

doctors / pig / heart / transplant / ill / operation / a shot in the dark / choice / genes / permission / experimental / the future / shortage / crisis / optimistic / option / bed

True / False

- 1) Doctors in China carried out the first pig-heart transplant. T / F
- 2) The man who needed the heart was very ill before the operation. T / F
- 3) The man said the transplant was his last choice. T / F
- 4) Scientists did not need to change the genes of the pig. T / F
- 5) The heart transplant took 17 hours. T / F
- 6) Doctors needed special permission from the WHO to do the transplant. T / F
- 7) Pig organs could help to solve a shortage in organs for transplant. T / F
- 8) The man is looking forward to getting out of bed. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. happened | a. pass away |
| 2. operation | b. nearer |
| 3. chance | c. acceptable |
| 4. die | d. think |
| 5. suitable | e. occurred |
| 6. permission | f. get better |
| 7. believe | g. surgery |
| 8. closer | h. give |
| 9. provide | i. clearance |
| 10. recover | j. opportunity |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about pigs?
- b) What do you think of heart transplants?
- c) What do you think of heart transplants using pig hearts?
- d) Would you have made the same decision as the man?
- e) What do you think of genetically modifying animals?
- f) What are the advantages and disadvantages of organ transplants?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What advice do you have for Mr Bennett?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. It is the first time this | a. took seven hours |
| 2. doing well after | b. patients |
| 3. I know it's a shot | c. of the pig |
| 4. Scientists changed the genes | d. out of bed |
| 5. its heart would | e. has happened |
| 6. The transplant operation | f. his operation |
| 7. one step closer to solving the organ | g. to live longer |
| 8. provide an important new option for | h. be more suitable |
| 9. his transplant will allow him | i. shortage |
| 10. I look forward to getting | j. in the dark |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of pigs?
- What do you think of surgeons?
- Do you think there will be more animal organ transplants in the future?
- How would you feel before having an organ transplant?
- Will doctors be able to replace all our body parts in the future?
- Do you always look forward to getting out of bed?
- What questions would you like to ask the doctors?

Spelling

- the first time this has aephenpd
- the day before the oroatenpi
- It was erhiet die or do this transplant
- it's my last ociceh
- Scientists changed the eseng of the pig
- its heart would be more ibuetlsa
- Doctors received special onsprsiemi
- U.S. shiioutaret
- tleerxpianma surgery
- solving the organ shortage sriics
- We are also tmciospiit
- getting out of bed after I roeevrc

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. g	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. b	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Heart

You think the heart is the most difficult organ to transplant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their organ is not so difficult to transplant. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): brain, skin or stomach.

Role B – Brain

You think the brain is the most difficult organ to transplant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their organ is not so difficult to transplant. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): heart, skin or stomach.

Role C – Skin

You think the skin is the most difficult organ to transplant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their organ is not so difficult to transplant. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): brain, heart or stomach.

Role D – Stomach

You think the stomach is the most difficult organ to transplant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their organ is not so difficult to transplant. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): brain, skin or heart.

Speaking – Organs

Rank these with your partner. Put the most difficult to transplant at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| • Heart | • Kidney |
| • Lungs | • Liver |
| • Brain | • Stomach |
| • Skin | • Pancreas |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.