

T. Yaremchuk

Language tutor: T.Yu. Biloshytska,

Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences,

Senior Lecturer

Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University

WORLD'S FIRST HUMAN HEAD TRANSPLANT IS A SUCCESS

The world's first human head transplant has allegedly been performed on a corpse in an 18 hour operation which successfully connected the spine, nerves and blood vessels of two people.

The operation was carried out by a team led by Dr Xiaoping Ren of Harbin Medical University, China, who last year successfully grafted a head onto the body of a monkey.

Italian Professor Sergio Canavero, Director of the Turin Advanced Neuromodulation Group, told that electrical stimulation of the nerves proved the operation on the corpse had been successful, and that the two people had been completely attached.

Describing the surgery, Prof Canavero said the operation was split into two parts. In the first procedure, the blood supply of the donor body was attached to the brain of the recipient. Then the head was severed and the nerves and blood vessels attached to the new body using a biological glue known as PEG.

Although Russian computer scientist Valery Spiridonov had volunteered to become the first head transplant patient, the team have since said the first trial is likely to be carried out on someone who is Chinese, because the chance of a Chinese donor body will be higher.

However Prof Canavero said his ultimate goal was to transplant a human brain.

References

1. Canavero: World's 1st human head transplant carried out [Electronic Resource]. – Mode of access: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5092769/World-s-human-head-transplant-carried-out.html>.