

Brain transplantation

722 words

Come-in Mr. Bean; your room is ready. You can make yourself comfortable and lie in the bed if you like. We will come with your soup in a few minutes.

The clinic was very new and absolutely modern. It looked more like a 5-star luxury hotel, instead of a clinic specializing in brain transplants.

I sat on a leather chair waiting. The nurse showed up with a soup bowl; she gave it to me and asked me to eat the soup; it was very delicious. But not the customary soup. It was a culture of stem cells from a human brain, in a well-balanced broth of culture media, fortified with nerve growth factors. These genetically engineered cells had the ability to pass the acid of the stomach and the enzymes of the pancreas unhurt, get into the circulation and find their way to the hippocampus, bypassing the blood-brain barrier. A membrane anchor would help them implant specifically into the Hippocampus, where they will proliferate, until they receive an exogenous light signal to stop.

But why did I come here? I am a trivia fanatic and I recently noticed some delay in my retrieving capacity. Even for very easy questions, like “who was the actor in the Rocky movies?” or “ how old was Elvis when he died?” or “Who shot President Kennedy? Things got worse and worse and I wanted to do something about it. I saw this ad in the newspapers about the brain transplantation clinic and decided to do it. Safe and effective; this is what I was told.

The therapy would cost just \$500 and it was totally non-invasive, with a money-back guarantee that memory would be enhanced by at least 100-fold.

After the soup, I was not allowed to eat anything else since they wanted no competition for the absorption of the stem cells. They put me in a 37 degree-controlled room for the overnight stay. The next morning, an MRI has shown that the cells were in my hippocampus, growing well. They sent me home and I started eating at libido, but I had to go for the MRI every day. By the 7th day, the light signal was beamed to the cells so that they would stop growing. That’s it. I now have a new hippocampus and a turbo memory enhancement!

They scheduled my cognitive test a week later.

Are you ready Mr. Bean? We will ask you some questions; if you know the answer, press the button in front of you within 3 seconds; pressing it later does not count. If successful, you will hear the characteristic noise, Brrrrrrrr, and then you will answer the question; otherwise do nothing. We know you used to be the regional Champion in sports trivia. So, we will check your therapy success with sports; easy questions first

Greatest basketball player of all time? Do you hear me Mr. Bean? No button pressed; should I repeat the question?

Yes, I hear you well; but the answer does not come; carry on please.

The Great One in hockey?

The King of tennis?

The Golden Bear of golf ?

Seems our transplant is not functional Mr. Bean; last question

Strikeout King of all time?

Brrrrr; Nolan Ryan

Nurse: Hmmm; something is going on here

Pitcher with most career wins?

Brrrrrr; Cy Young

Nurse:Hmmm; let us give him some more baseball questions

Who holds the record for most hits?

Brrrrr; Pete Rose

And home runs?

Brrrrrr; Barry Bonds

And consecutive games played?

Brrrr;Cal Ripken

And 56- game hitting streak?

Brrrrrrr; Jo Di Maggio

Sorry Mr. Bean; we have some unexpected findings here; we need to investigate further and let you know; it seems that your transplant only works for baseball!

A week later I got the detailed report and the return of my \$500. At least they kept their promise of money-back guarantee; they found that the soup was made with only one set of stem cells from Babe Ruth's brain, instead of the standard cocktail of 200 different brains. A glitch in the software of the robot-Chef made it retrieve the frozen single aliquot from the cryo-bank, instead of the mix. The transplant is permanent and non-replaceable. I did read this in the fine print but paid no particular attention. So, I have to now confine my trivia competitions just to baseball.

I was further notified that the local health authorities have suspended the brain transplant clinic operations until the clinic becomes ISO 158556578955443 compliant.

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