

Transplant Patient Makes Progress

Same Surgery Readied For 2nd Heart Patient



CONVERSATION. Mrs. Ann Washkansky, wife of heart transplant patient Louis Washkansky, expresses her gratitude yesterday in Cape Town, South Africa, to E. G. Darvall, father of the heart donor Denise Darvall.

UPI Radiophoto

Expert's Future Hope Still on Artificial Heart

By David Zinman

New York—A Brooklyn surgeon who pioneered heart assist-pump surgery predicted yesterday that the artificial heart rather than the heart transplant will be the most common means of saving persons with failing hearts.

Dr. Adrian Kantrowitz, director of surgery at Maimonides Hospital, said that there will never be enough donor hearts available for the hundreds of thousands of persons who die from heart attacks each year. "Instead," he told a press conference, "10 or 15 years from now, it will be the mechanical heart that will be commonplace . . . The mechanical device will do the job just as well and will be freely available. In the long run medical science will have to work out a system whereby these devices work efficiently and economically and can be turned out on a mass production basis."

Kantrowitz was one of the speakers at Hunter College where delegates from nearly 100 universities began a two-day celebration of the New York Academy of Sciences' 150th anniversary. The academy, which is comprised of 25,000 scientists from 92 countries, holds annual conferences to keep its members abreast of the latest scientific developments.

In an interview after the ceremonies, Kantrowitz said that he foresaw the most extensive use of the heart transplant in children whose organs are still growing. But for adults, he said, the choice will be an auxiliary device implanted in the body which can be turned on and off as needed. Its function will be to take over the heart's major pumping work at critical times.

Plastic Pump Used

Dr. Michael DeBakey of Houston, Tex., has built a plastic assist heart pump hooked up from outside the body that saved the life of a woman last year. The device rested her weakened heart until it could heal itself and carry on unassisted. She has now returned to normal life. Kantrowitz had reported two failures with a similar device implanted within the body.

But in a speech before the Academy, Kantrowitz said that six of nine critically ill heart patients whom he treated had survived since June after their hearts had been assisted from two hours to three days by a new balloon-like pumping device. "It can be implanted with local anaesthesia on a hospital bed," he said. "It is such a simple and safe procedure that I can foresee that it may change the treatment method of the vast bulk of heart patients."

Cape Town, South Africa (UPI)—Louis Washkansky, the heart of a dead woman pumping life through his body, sipped soup and joked with nurses yesterday, as the surgeon who performed medical history's first heart transplant prepared for a second such operation.

Washkansky, 55, was still in an oxygen tent in Grootte Schuur Hospital, but X-rays showed that the new heart, taken from a 25-year-old woman killed in a traffic accident, was working well. Dr. Christian Barnard, 44, who performed the dramatic breakthrough Sunday, said he was "perfectly satisfied" with Washkansky's progress. Barnard said Washkansky was kept in an oxygen tent not because he needs oxygen but as a defense against infection.

Barnard said he was preparing to repeat the operation, but not until he is sure Washkansky will pull through. The second man chosen for a heart transplant, Barnard said, is a Cape Town dentist suffering from a serious heart condition. He said he was also awaiting a suitable donor.

Doctors used their most sophisticated weapon, cobalt rays, to keep Washkansky's body from rejecting the foreign tissue of the new heart. Washkansky also received drugs to suppress the rejection tendency of his body against foreign tissue. "I am feeling much better," Washkansky told nurses Monday night after drinking orange juice and milk.

Barnard, a boyish-looking former country doctor, said Washkansky seemed pretty cheerful. "It is very difficult to say, but I think this will be a success," he declared.

Denise Darvall was struck down by an automobile and killed Saturday night, and her tearful father gave permission for surgeons to use her heart to save the life of Washkansky. Doctors confirmed yesterday that Washkansky has diabetes, perhaps complicating his chances for survival since incisions of diabetics heal slowly.

Barnard said one reason Washkansky was chosen was that he had a short time to live. "We could have selected a child with a heart condition," Barnard said. "But the immediate life expectancy of the patient had to be considered."

Washkansky's wife, Anne, said she would not see her husband for a while. "I don't think I will see him for another week," she said. "I am not endangering my husband's life for anything in this world. It is not for me to try to barge in and upset the apple cart. To get through the operation is incredible enough," she said. "I want to see him completely healthy again."

Jonathan Van Vyck, a 10-year-old African boy who received one of the dead woman's kidneys, was making satisfactory progress.

Doctor Sees New Attempts

La Jolla, Calif. (UPI)—A half-dozen U.S. medical centers are prepared to perform heart transplant operations, Dr. William Likoff, president of the American College of Cardiology, said yesterday.

Likoff, of the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in Philadelphia, said his institution almost performed the pioneering surgery three months ago. "We had the donor and the recipient," Likoff said. "We had asked the donor's parents to come to Philadelphia to sign the consent papers. 'no one ever dreamed that they would come by car rather than by plane,' he said. 'The car trip caused them to arrive too late.'"

Likoff, here to address a cardiology conference, said: "A door has been cracked open and a world of new progress is envisioned," he said. "But the final answers have yet to be assured. 'It is highly unlikely that without a great deal of additional knowledge that this will represent a panacea or a routine mechanism for salvaging lives,' he added."

Witness Describes Stabbing of Rupolo

By Robert Hummerstone

Kew Gardens—A prosecution witness in the murder trial of John (Sonny) Franzese testified yesterday that he saw Franzese's three co-defendants pin down and stab Ernest (Ernie the Hawk) Rupolo in the chest and then take his body away in the trunk of a car one night in 1964.

The witness, Richard Parks, 27, of Corona, Queens, a convicted bank robber, also linked Franzese to the slaying. He said that Franzese had bawled out Parks for borrowing the car used to take Rupolo's body away, instead of stealing it, as Parks had been ordered. Parks testified that the day after Rupolo's murder, Franzese had warned Parks: "You do what you're told from now on. If you're told to take a car from Manhattan, you take a car from Manhattan. If you're told to shoot somebody, you shoot 'em. If you're told to pipe (bomb) somebody, you pipe 'em."

Parks, a husky, sleepy-eyed man with a black crew cut and rosy cheeks was the third member of a four-man bank robbery gang to testify in the trial in State Supreme Court here. Like the others, he said that the Queens district attorney had helped him receive a light sentence of five

years for bank robbery in return for his testimony. He could have received 25 years. He is now serving time in the Nassau County jail.

Franzese, 48, a reputed Cosa Nostra boss, who lives at 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn Heights, is on trial with Thomas Matteo, 24, Joseph (Whitey) Florio, 40, and William (Red) Crabbe, 42. All are charged with the first-degree murder of Rupolo, an underworld figure turned reformer, whose battered body washed up in the Rockaways in August, 1964, bound and chained to two cinder blocks.

Summoned to Bar

Parks gave the following account yesterday of the Rupolo murder: Florio summoned Parks to the Rainbow Bar, Rockaway Boulevard, Queens, which Florio partly owned, on Aug. 1, 1964. Florio, with Crabbe present, told Parks to steal a late-model car, preferably four-door, in Manhattan. Florio said the most likely place to find such a car with its keys in the ignition was a parking lot. But instead of stealing the car, Parks borrowed it from Charles Zaher, another bank robber and prosecution witness, and told Florio that he had stolen it. Florio and Parks put

stolen license plates on Zaher's car, and Parks noted cement blocks and rope in the trunk.

At about 2 AM on Aug. 5, 1964, Parks continued, he delivered Zaher's car to the rear parking lot of the Skyway Hotel near Kennedy Airport, left the key under the floor mat and went to the motel office to call a taxi. But then he returned to the parking lot and saw a second car next to Zaher's. Parks said he hid behind another parked car and saw Florio, Crabbe and Matteo get out, along with John (Johnny Irish) Matera, now serving a life term in Florida.

Parks said that Matera opened the trunk of the second car "and he pulled a body out of the trunk of the car, and that was the Hawk" (Rupolo). Suddenly's Rupolo's arms moved, Parks said. "He screamed the words, no, no." Matera pushed Rupolo to the ground and Matteo held Rupolo's feet. "Whitey said he's still alive." Crabbe took out a gun. "Florio said not with the gun." Crabbe then grabbed a knife from Florio, bent down, and stabbed Rupolo in the chest three or four times. They threw the body in the trunk of Zaher's car, and all but Florio drove off. Florio then drove off alone in the other car. Rupolo's body was fished out of Jamaica Bay 19 days later.