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Success of mental transposition to the brain of Alzheimer patients

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Introduction: The surgical placement of an intact vascularized omental pedicle directly on the human brain can result in a significant increase in cerebral blood flow (CBF). Placing an omental pedicle on the brain of Alzheimer (AD) patients, who are known to have a decreased CBF, may explain the cognitive improvement that has followed this surgical procedure.

Methods: The omentum is surgically lengthened with its blood supply remaining intact. Following this lengthening process the omentum is brought up through a subcutaneous tunnel placed along the chest and neck up to the head. A craniotomy is performed and the dura mater is opened. The omentum is then simply laid on the brain without the need for any anastomoses.

Results: Omental transposition (OT) to the brain allows omental arteries to penetrate directly and deeply into the brain resulting in a marked increase in CBF. Of twenty-five advanced Alzheimer patients who underwent OT to the brain six patients showed no post-operative improvement, ten demonstrated slight changes with nine patients demonstrating marked cognitive improvement.

Conclusion: There is increasing interest that AD is the result of decreased CBF which negatively effects the intra-neuronal mitochondria which directly influences the production of neuronal adenosine triphosphate (ATP) which is the energy source of neurons. The increased CBF originating from the omentum may explain the improved cognition that has followed OT to the brain of AD patients.

Biography

Harry S Goldsmith is Clinical Professor of Neurological Surgery at the University of California in Sacramento. He has been a Full Professor of Surgery and Neurosurgery since 1970. He has written 260 published papers, has edited four surgical texts, and was the Editor of Goldsmith's Practice of Surgery in twelve volumes from 1976-1988. His main interest at present is in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and in new treatment for acute and chronic spinal cord injuries using the omentum.

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