

Dentist sees flaws in tooth transplants

by MARSHA BANGERT
Nebraskan Staff Writer

If a patient wants a tooth transplant today, he must have a tooth that's ready and able within his own mouth.

Teeth have been transplanted within one individual in the past, but the first successful individual-to-individual transplant is yet to come, Francis Monsour, DDS, a visiting professor from Australia in oral surgery, said.

Because of the differing genetic make-up of all in-

dividuals (with the exception of identical twins), the patient's mouth rejects a tooth from another person as a "foreign body."

Monsour continued that either masking or matching up the tooth's genetic properties can counteract the rejection process, but neither has been successfully accomplished.

Current research at Harvard University seeks to mask the tooth's genetic properties through a coating or a treating process, Monsour said. But these processes result in the

loss of the tooth's vitality or ability to live.

This loss of vitality is undesirable to Monsour who has successfully transplanted teeth within an individual. He said that a vital or living tooth can grow and function almost normally.

Monsour added, "If the vital character of the tooth can be maintained, I feel that the transplanted tooth will be more readily accepted in its new site."

The transplant is presently used to upright teeth or move them bodily from one position to another. The oral surgeon added that the operation can be connected with orthodontics when teeth fail to erupt properly.

Monsour said that a tooth is moved from an impacted site to the front of the mouth primarily to improve the appearance of the patient.

The transplant does not involve any "real danger," according to Monsour. Even a tooth which is rejected falls out by itself or is pushed out by the tissue in the mouth.

Despite this lack of danger,

the transplant is a "last resort," Monsour said.

Because of this, he asserted that the oral surgeon too often must compromise conditions because of time. He added that compromising cuts the chance of success.

"To be a success, the transplant has got to be planned so conditions are optimal. It is necessary to establish a good prognosis to assure the patient of success," Monsour said.

Optimal conditions include a tooth at the right development stage, a well-prepared receiving site and selection of a tooth with the greatest vitality.

Go Big Rag!

Rising from the depths of ineptness, the Rag football team defeated the Union 16-0 in a game between two undefeated teams Friday afternoon on the south Love Library lawn.

Scatback Gary Seacrest led the way in the rout scoring one touchdown on an interception and adding two more points with a safety, as the Ragers raised their season record to 1-0. Kelley (The Fleet Baker) talked his way into the end zone to score the first touchdown on a long pass from Dave Landis.

Meeting with failure at every turn, the Union quarterbacks found Rag middle linebacker Howard (The Wall) Rosenberg in their backfield most of the afternoon. He was assisted on

defense by tackle Pat DiNatale and safeties Barry Pilger and Mike Hayman and Fred Eisenhart.

The Women's Liberation Movement reached a new dimension as Susie Eisenhart played right guard for the Ragers. Her performance was an inspiration to the faint hearted females who sat on the sidelines.

Dan Ladely, who declined to play, enjoyed his finest day as an official as he refereed the error filled contest.

The game was summed up by Union head coach and athletic director Hal Smith who said, "Never underestimate the power of the press."

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