

. . . Drug Seizure

So far, at least 75 doctors in 35 Ohio hospitals have administered the vaccine to cancer victims even though prior animal tests for toxicity reportedly were performed on only one horse, 12 rabbits and 40 mice given a minimum of three injections.

The drug received national attention when an article in the December issue of Pageant magazine cited a number of reports of disease remission in persons with supposedly hopeless cases. A man with cancer of the pancreas, liver and spine was relieved of pain two weeks after first receiving the Rand vaccine and was out playing golf within a month.

However, spontaneous and usually temporary remission of disease does occur among cancer victims.

Spokesmen for the National Cancer Institute, who knew nothing about the Cleveland work until it was publicized in the lay press, talked with investigators from Rand last December. On the basis of that meeting Institute scientists say they cannot favor the use of the drug in any human patients until considerably more laboratory and animal experimentation is conducted.

H. J. Rand, millionaire son of the founder of Remington-Rand, Inc. and head of the Rand Development Corporation, stresses that the work is still highly experimental. His investigators are not claiming to have found a cure for cancer, but rather that they have developed a vaccine that shows promise.

The vaccine itself is made from human cancer tissue and rabbit gamma globulin. Homogenized soluble human cancer antigens, proteins that stimulate the production of antibodies, are coupled to the gamma globulin using bisdiazotized benzidine as a coupling reagent. Coupling is the chemical joining of two substances to form an insoluble compound. When the vaccine is injected in a human cancer patient, it theoretically stimulates the body to produce its own antibodies.

MEDICAL LAW

Transplants In Shadow

Is a person free to donate his own kidney to a person who will die without a transplant? The British and French and many U.S. state laws forbid the donation on the grounds that it is self-maiming and does the person no good physically. Doctors who perform the surgery, and some do, are subject to possible subsequent suit by the donor. In this country, the Massachusetts Supreme Court upheld such a donation recently on the basis of the donor's

emotional and mental health. To give a kidney meant exercise of "totality," that is, his right to use his total being at the expense of a part.

In London recently, a private meeting of surgeons and lawyers was held to discuss the ethics of kidney grafts. Dr. George E. Schreiner of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., who was present, points out that there are differences in state laws in this country.

"What use is it," he asks, "to discuss the ethics of transplantation if your state forbids even autopsy within six hours of death? If your law forbids surgery except for the patient's physical benefit, all transplants are illegal and you could not have a decision such as that in Massachusetts."



Georgetown University

Dr. George E. Schreiner

Most frequently, surgery is illegal or in a shadowy quasi-legal world if it does not contribute to the subject's own well being.

At the London meeting Lord Kilbrandon, a senior Scottish judge, pointed out that Parliament would have to introduce special legislation to protect surgeons who wish to transplant a kidney from a healthy donor. No one can consent to such a serious maiming injury under Common Law. Even the written consent of the proposed donor is not valid.

Most surgeons at the meeting, which was sponsored by the Ciba Foundation, believed that some legal protection is urgently needed. The Health Ministry, however, says that no legislation is being considered. Even the British Medical Association and Medical Defense Union have so far ignored the need.

A British Tissue Act was introduced in 1961 to help surgeons secure material for grafting operations, but this applies only to dead bodies.

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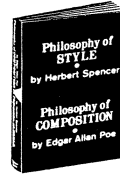
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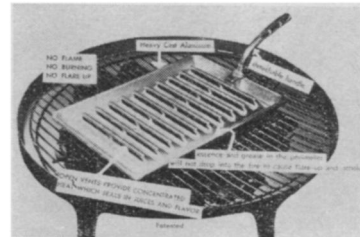


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