Linda's Dad - a lobotomy patient prefrontal lobotomy, ice pick lobotomy, ster the person operated but the whole famil illness was a speciality of its own. The Persian tactic lobotomy and capsulotomy are all sur My mother recalls her best friend's dad, who after polymath a.o. philosopher and physician, Avice

getting the white cut couldn't control his impulses.

Linda's mother was not at home, so we had to lock him i

operations where the pathways of white ner fibers within the brain connecting the fror responsible for relaying sensory information to t cortex, are cut. The idea was to "cut away" the disruptive thoughts and behaviours of psychotic patients to make them

The operation was used as a treatment against depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, deviant behaviour and compulsive disorders but affected at the same lobe controls the complex line of thoughts, which separate humans from animals, that is the ability to be introspect and reflect on one's surroundings, to plan, and interact socially.

Historical view

(981 - 1037), came up with the theory that mental

n his work the *Canon of Medicine (Al-Oanun-fi-il Tabb*), Avicenna dedicated three chapters of l

which reality is replaced by fantasy and he located

its origin in the middle part of the brain.

He was the first person to relate intellectual dys

functions to deficits in the middle ventricle and

frontal lobe of the brain, which mediates common

around 1150. This, the first attemt at psychol cal intervention, involved placing burr holes in

> Chirurgiae around 1180. Ruggiero's work was the first medieval text on surgery to dominate its field

such as headaches as well as major ones such as

Trephination

The German scientist Friederich Golz performed the first lobotomy on a dog in 1888. His expe ents involved removing portions of the

temporal lobes. As a result the dogs were calme

The Broca area and animal loboton

ortex, in the left frontal region – the "Broca area".

1880) researched in brain functions. His w revealed that the brains of patients suffering from aphasia contained lesions in a particular part of the

woman aged 54.

and less aggressive.

Lember 1888 the Swiss neuropsychiatrist Gottlieb Burckhardt (1836-1907) performed his firs

an interruption of the disruptive thoughts ar In total six chronic schizophrenic patients und behaviours of the psychotic patient might or ent localized cerebral cortical excisions. Mo patients showed improvement that is became

clinical outcome in a scholarly paper. He was

criticized by medical authorities at the time for

But the Zeitgeist changed over time and a half

decade later the public attitude towards this kind

performing such a radical procedure. Burckhardt

may occur was outweighed by reduction in

the American neuroscientists Carlyle F. Jacob and John Fulton presented an experiment of chimpanzees involving frontal lobe ablation a found them to be calmer afterwards.

November 12th 1935 he made his first leuc After experimenting with injecting ethyl alcol calmer and became easier to manage, although one into the brain, Moniz developed a procedure died from the procedure and several had aphasia where he inserted a looped wire rod into the brain

> leucotomy on a human patient. Moniz reported that in several cases severely agitated, anxio technique as a last resort only. He claimed the

surgeon Egas Moniz (1874 – 1955) reasoned the

Transorbital lobotomy

as drawn to psychosurgery by

the idea of leucotomy. He needed the collabora-

psychiatrist was the first who performed a 1141. sorbital lobotomy in 1937, that is operated on the brain through his patients' eye sockets, allowing him to access the frontal lobe of the brain wit I veterans, were housed but rarely cured. n icepick like instrument hammered throu anium without drilling through the skull treatment. He read Moniz's reports, and embraced

> Together they wrote a book on psychosurge 1942 using an illustration of the French

on a 63 year-old woman who was suffering the wards of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, whe depression, agitation, and fear. Following the ington's mentally ill patients, including World War operation, she was calm and her sense of terro

> published their first report in November, stating that anxiety, confusion, phobias, hallucination and delusions had been relieved or erased en the surgery Freeman and Watt took pictures of t patients before and after the operation. There was a down side to the procedure, which the

Before and after

seemed to have disappeared.

spontaneity, some flavor of their personality

and his orphan" by serving and honoring the m and women who are America's veterans The U.S. government lobotomized roughly 2,0

Veteran Affairs Mission Stateme

The VA doctors considered themselves conserv

the surgery at VA hospitals spanning the count.

gled with a vexing question that absorbs Americ

and Europe to this day: How best to treat the

sychological crises that afflict soldiers returning

tive in using lobotomy. Nevertheless, desperate f

ective psychiatric treatments, they carried or

1949, the VA distributed a 37-point take-home guide for families — a pamphlet that, in esser warned a soldier's relatives that the man they se war was returning to them a child. VA doctors resorted to brain surgery as they strug-

careful. There may be times when you have to corre

repeatedly about mistakes

authorized to perform the surgery, according to

agency documents. Scores of records from 22 of

those hospitals list another 466 lobotomies pe

med outside that time period, bringing

on Ellen Ionesco, a 29-year-old housewife an mother, that Freeman noted as having "suicida

Ice pick lobotomy

lobotomy himself, and wanted to develop a

sion of the operation that could be perfor

just by neurosurgeons, but by anyone. In 19

an tried to develop a similar approach t

my, practicing on corpses. Walter rreeman

Fiamberti in 1951 at the International Cong

He decided that he would operate on his first

living patient without telling Watts, not do "

tions the transorbital method by Mario Adam

inspired by Fiambertis transorbital lob

The transorbital lobotomy method did not require a neurosurgeon and could be performed outside ar

Freeman as a miracle worker.

Lobotomy in media and Freeman's lobotomobile

"lobotomobile" and stopping off at hospitals along

the way to perform the transorbital operation on

patients. He charged just \$25 for each procedure that he performed.

But many saw lobotomy as the only solution and

operating room without the use of anesthesia by using electroconvulsive therapy to induce seizur It was the beginning of the end of the relationship with Watt and within months Watts left the joint

stream media. Advertisements for differen to see Walter Freeman. She explained that lobotomy instruments were published in magazines stepson had become disobedient, and at time and on tv. Freeman's operations were often shown acted out in an aggressive and violent manne After numerous evaluation sessions, Freeman

eyes at the same time. It took 7 minutes. He could

useful for practically everything." Howard Dully was a boy with a clinical syndrome that 21st century child and adolescent psycl efiant disorder. He may also have suffered fro

co-occurring conditions such as attention-defi-

hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and depression

possibly the judicious use of psychotropic me

cations, such as mood stabilizers. The treatme

approach would also necessarily include intergi

other caregivers of the child. But back then the

Critical Voices

nedia show. In 1948, Dr. Florence Powdermake

chief of the VA's psychiatric-education section, in

doubts about Dr. Freeman, whom she accused o

In unusually sarcastic language for a government

serted a pink note in the files expressing her stro

aving "liberal ideas" about brain surgery.

memo, she made the quip about how he might

even find lobotomy suitable to treat "a pain is

snown any disposition to modify his idea that wove....

ages of the brain to guide the surgeon to a ta vith a large box of Christmas cards from gratefi patients and families, evidence he hoped would within the brain. A light-weight frame is attache stance of the target from the reference points or

rebutted by showing the box of Christmas card e also sent christmas cards to his patients. How-

ever misguided he may have been, he took genuine

When accused of callousness, the neurologist

interest in the lives of his patients and was con

were used in most of the psychosurgery being performed and electrod insertion was commo

pretrontal area.

the frame can be measured in three dimensions Lyerly was modified by James Poppen making i

possible to destroy the more medial portion of

Poppen procedure. By using an X-ray guide

stereotaxic electrode implantation technique

was able to further restrict the damage to the ven A third reason was the general trust in med tromedial suadrant of the prefrontal area. nce which in the media was represented a all-knowing. Like the American neurologist D Walter Freeman who of many was seen as a

In Denmark the operation had an extra high

prevalence with the higest number of operation in

was used against almost everything. On the w

relation to the size of the population. Gradually it

ere was no critic, and the treatment was use

1983. At least 4471 lobotomies were done in this

encroach on people's lives. Denmark had allrea then approved sterilisation and castration, and

Livø where they were of no danger for societ

Secondly there existed no effective treatment

choactive drugs were not yet at the market

gainst mental illness apart from electrochok

psychotherapy which helped in some cases. Psy

feebleminded were sent to the islands Sprogø and

When psychoactive drugs came in the 1950s the use of the white cut ebbed. Moreover there wer

zations and make room for more patients at

eatments before they got the white cut.C

It was used as a tool of "social control", the

of sedative drugs. But easy going patien

way of controlling difficult patients who no

lobotomized too. This goes for psychpaths and

people with obsessive-compulsive disorders as

vell. Feebleminded patients had the operation

Children down to the age of 6 got lobotomized

too, sometimes several times. At Rigshospitalet

omized from 1948 to 1958. From 1954 to

Copenhagen 20 children under the age of 14

or psychotherapy before a lobotomy

hospitals. But soon most patiens seldom tried othe

prekke autumn 1948 working for the Norwegian demanded an inquiry into the consequences of the Office for Psychiatry. He informs his employer that in the henceforward lobotomy as treatment 37% got worse, 25% better, 9% the same and for

6% it was ambiguous. Up to 30% got postoper

resulted in attempted rape and other crimina

behaviour.

incontinence, vomiting and weight gain and some was strong despite the fact that lobotomy was patients developed disinhibition. The most com serious operation with a high mortality rate. Un mon side effects were apathy and executive 1948 32 % of the patients at Gaustad Asyl die unctioning, and change in relation to nor behaviour, some became sexually aggressive w

dinary special treatment.

compensation at the amount of 100.000 Norwegian as treatment 9 more years.

stereotactic devices -"The Leksell Frame"- in 1949 Capsulotomy is a neurosurgical procedure where

lesions in the anterior part of the internal capconverging beams of gammaradiation (radiosurgery) where lesions are produced without opening

In Norway it was not before 1990 that the social committee demanded a survey of the use of th white cut in Norway. In 1996 all lobotomized in

> with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) as tion written in 2006 the effects and conseque of the operation have been examined and the operation is no longer allowed. Nor Swedish Danish patients have been compensated