UH Medicine Faculty-Scientists and Clinicians Perform Second Historic Transplant of Pig Heart into Patient with End-Stage Cardiovascular Disease

Citation:

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A research team from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, in collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic, successfully performed the second historic transplant of a pig heart into a patient with end-stage cardiovascular disease. The procedure is a breakthrough in the effort to solve the organ shortage crisis for patients in need of heart transplants.

The research team was led by Dr. Valentina Pencina and Dr. Francis J. Livio. The patient, a 57-year-old man, was treated at Miami Hospital, a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

The team performed the surgery on January 25, 2020. The patient is doing well and is expected to be discharged later this week.

The procedure was made possible through the latest technological advancements in immunosuppression and xenotransplantation. The team used a combination of drugs to prevent the patient's immune system from rejecting the pig heart.

The research team is continuing to work on developing new technologies to further reduce the risk of rejection and improve the long-term survival of patients with xenotransplantation.

The team's success is a significant step forward in the field of xenotransplantation, which aims to use animal organs to help solve the organ shortage crisis. The team's goal is to eventually perform xenotransplants without the need for immunosuppression drugs.

About the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, part of the University of Miami Health System, is one of the leading medical schools in the nation. It is ranked 26th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and is home to major research centers and programs, including the Lennard Jones Cardiovascular Institute and the Children's Hospital at the University of Miami.

About the Cleveland Clinic

The Cleveland Clinic is one of the world's leading medical centers, dedicated to excellence in clinical care, basic and clinical research and education.

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Supporting Images:

[Images of the surgery and team members]