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SEGMENTAL HEPATIC GRAFT

Professor Broelsch's suggestion is an excellent one (1) of preparation and procurement of a segmental hepatic graft in advance of removal of the main liver specimen from a heart-beating cadaver donor. This technique was used at the University of Colorado on March 26, 1975, for the first reduced-size liver transplant operation known to have been performed clinically. The full lateral segment that was removed from a large adult for transplantation to an 8.4-kg child with biliary atresia proved to be too large. Closure of the wound required the placement of a prosthetic mesh, another technique for the liver recipient that was to be heard from again.

The experience was not reported until 14 years later (2). In the donor operation, the remaining portion of the donor liver was discarded by right trisegmentectomy rather than transplanted to a second recipient, as described by Rogiers et al. (1). In today's climate of organ shortage, this would be un-

thinkable. It is remarkable that the simple idea advanced by Rogiers et al. required such a long time to come to light. Now, it should be evaluated systematically.

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