

The Boy with a Twisted Tale

Written by Toby C

Cameron Kelsey - of 14 Larkin Road - had a 12 hour operation in a Top Secret location, followed by 6 weeks recovery in hospital. He was the first person to receive an organ from a different species (a pig).

The life-changing surgery was for his heart because 2 years ago he had a viral heart infection, which resulted in him being told he only had one year to live.

Cameron was not able to take part in physical exercise because whenever he was doing sports, running, holding his breath under water and cycling, he would become breathless. Cameron said, "I only had two choices, to live or die, and I chose to live."

Dr Richard Bryce is a leading expert in transplantation and he was the main doctor in the procedure. He was assisted by other professionals. Dr Bryce did a lot of research on Xenotransplantation (which means putting an organ from another species into a different animal) before proceeding with this operation.

Many people wonder why Dr Bryce used a pig heart instead of a human or monkey heart. The reason was because there are not enough human or monkey hearts available and a pig's heart is closest to a human heart. Additionally, pig insulin has been used for humans before.



Cameron at home having his interview.

Trudy -the pig which was used - was specifically bred to have. Her heart taken to be placed into a human, and that human was Cameron. Cameron said 'I am very grateful for Trudy, because without her I wouldn't be standing here now.'

Cameron is now at home recovering slowly and is looking forward to being more active, playing sport and enjoying time with his friends. This is what Mrs Kelsey commented, "I am very happy that my son has survived, but he still has a risk of dying and will need to be on drugs for many years. However, we are hopeful that he will recover and have a happy life."

