



F.5 - Biology

# Xenotransplantation



Emma	Good morning, principal, teachers and fellow schoolmates. We are students from 5D and we are all studying Biology. I am Emma.
Lucy	I am Lucy.
Tiffany	I am Tiffany.
Emma	Lucy and Tiffany, have you ever heard about using animal organs for life-saving transplants?
Lucy	Ummm... No I have no idea for it. What's that?
Tiffany	Oh! I have heard that before on the news. A man from the US, Bennett, got the first pig heart transplant and the most incredible thing is the heart from a dead pig was functioning after being transplanted to Bennett.
Lucy	Oh, that's cool. It can extend Bennett's life.
Emma	But unfortunately, Bennett died after receiving the heart transplant for 2 months. It is worth mentioning that the prior attempts of xenotransplantation have failed largely because of the rapid rejection by the human body. And the donor of the heart Bennett received was actually genetically modified. It means scientists and doctors made this pig more suitable to give out its heart. Therefore Bennett survived significantly longer.
Lucy	Xenotransplantation? Does it mean transplanting organs from one kind of animal to another kind, such as from pig to human in this case?
Emma	Yes, you are right. It means transplanting an organ from one species to another.
Tiffany	It is such a milestone in xenotransplantation and medical surgery. Hopefully the technique of xenotransplantation can develop more maturely in the future so that more patients can be saved.
Lucy	Yes, organ shortage is really a big problem. Many patients in the world are waiting for suitable organs to save their lives. That's why some doctors and scientists are working very hard on new technologies and surgeries by doing different experiments.
Emma	If animal organs can be used in human surgeries one day, it will be a great news to those desperate patients in the world. It may also stop the illegal human organ black market in the world.
Tiffany	However, I have also heard of some controversies about making genetically modified animals for transplant purpose only.
Lucy	Yes, some people argued that it is unethical to create one animal just to save a human.
Emma	Really hope that scientists could find out a better solution to the problem of organ shortage in the world one day.
All	That's the end of our morning talk. Thank you.