

Is the Medical Profession Sceptical to New and Old Fashioned Medical Solutions?

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Dear Editor,

I am an orthopedic surgeon trained in England in the 60s, where I had the fortune of meet and work with pioneers in total hip prosthesis surgery (THP) like Mr. Mc. Kee, Mr. P. Ring and others from the British National Health Service.

In 1972 I had the opportunity of performing the first cemented total hips prosthesis implants in private hospitals in Lima, Peru. Until that date, this type of surgery was performed only in National Health Services hospitals or specialized orthopedic hospitals of very few countries. In the USA the FDA banned the use of acrylic cement in humans. My cases were presented and published in the Proceedings of the XIX World Congress of Surgery of the International College of Surgeons in March 1974, where the most renowned surgeons of the day - like I mentioned above and others presented and published their experiences in THP. In those days, we were already concerned about complications of THP and the problem of metal corrosion infiltrating metallic particles in tissues.

After this Congress, where a group of USA orthopedic surgeons assisted as observers, the FDA lifted the ban. The rest is history.

Total joint prosthesis surgery is increasing as population gets older with more active lives developing osteoarthritis. The treatment for this progressive and chronic disease is very old and, although different models of prosthesis have appeared in the market, the same principle of inserting a metallic element into an ever continuing changing bone structure hasn't change, increasing complications.

I know from first hand that orthopaedic manufacturers and medical business companies have the upper hand in taking decisions regarding investing in bio resurfacing joints to treat early osteoarthritis, just like dentists do with caries. I think they have a hidden agenda towards the business of joint prosthesis. Nevertheless; one of the major Corporation in the USA in 2009 applied for a patent of my method described in patent GB 2344290 "A device for replacing and repairing a joint". They removed their application in 2011 after I claimed priority.

I think medical professionals are influenced to be sceptical to new changes or advances in therapies, etc., due to the fact that big Corporations have the upper hand in deciding in which direction should go research, production of drugs, medical devices, etc. Obviously they are motivated by profit. Medical professionals need to contact Corporations and medical business to be able to develop and produce their findings.

The above has inspired me to write you a letter for publication, after reading an article written in the www.guardian.com by Emma Young of the 26th February 2016. "Tanzanian rats can detect TB better than many labs". She ask So why the medical professional is still sceptical?

Yours sincerely,

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