

THE HISTORY OF THE LOBOTOMY

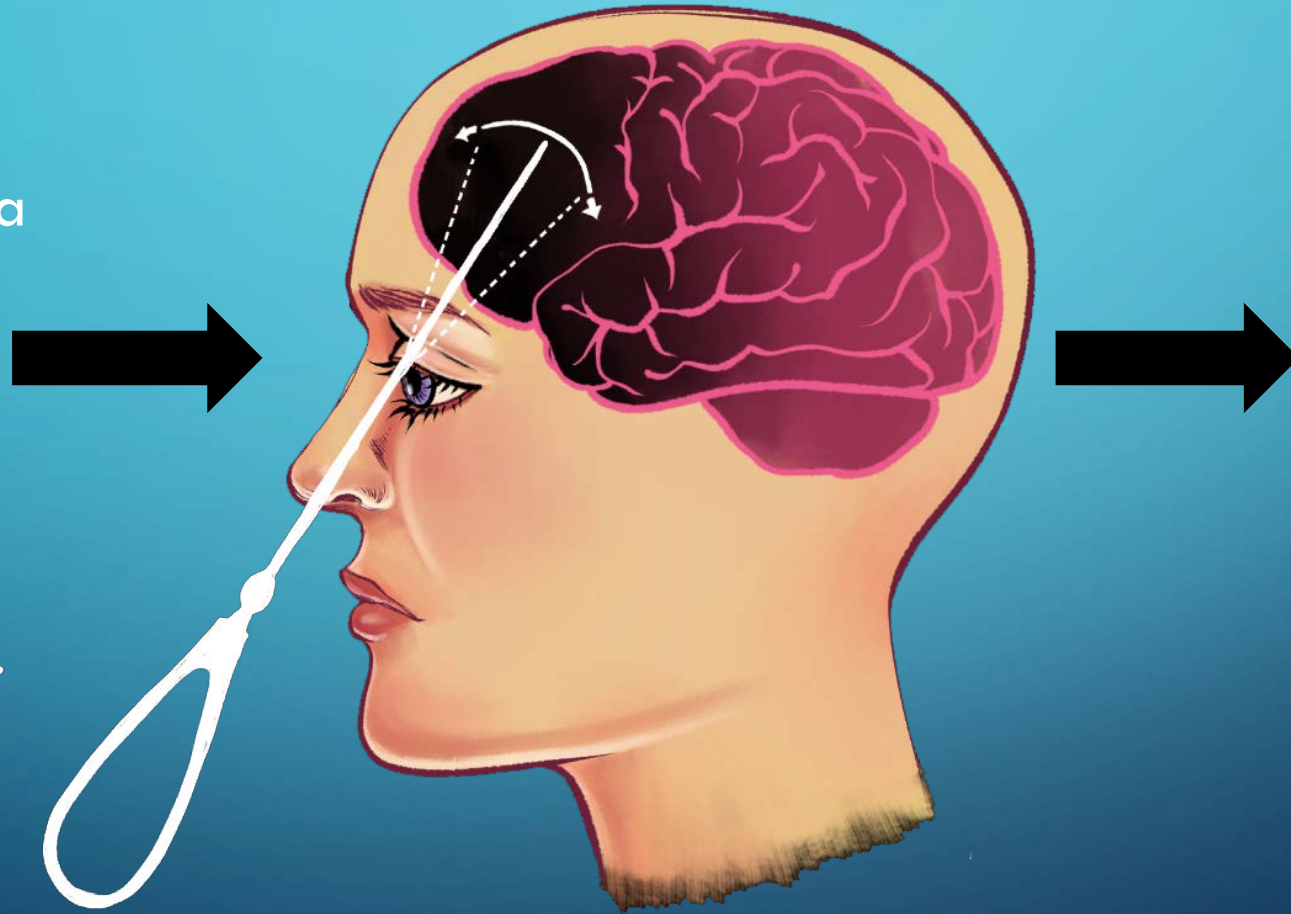
CLAUDIA HALL

AN OVERVIEW OF THIS PRESENTATION

- What is a lobotomy?
- The timeline of lobotomy's
- Mental illness in the 1900's
- Lobotomy before and after's
- Stories of lobotomy
- The end of lobotomy

WHAT IS A LOBOTOMY?

- Schizophrenia
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Mania
- Epilepsy

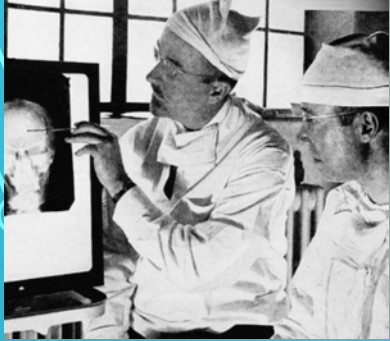


Reduced symptoms?

OR/AND

- Decreased emotional depth
- Brain damage
- Physical disability
- Apathy
- Poor concentration
- Passivity
- Death

TIMELINE OF THE LOBOTOMY



Dr Moniz invents the leucotomy

- First patient receives leucotomy
- Used ethyl alcohol to disrupt neuronal tracts

1935

Dr Freeman reinvents the lobotomy

- Transorbital lobotomy introduced
- 10 minute procedure

1945

First anti-depressants and anti-psychotics introduced

- Lobotomy falling more out of favour

1950s

1937

Nearly 40 patients received leucotomy

- Use of leucotome to disrupt connections

1942

First edition *Psychotherapy* published

- 63% patients improved
- 23% showed no change
- 14% worsened or died

1949

Dr Monez awarded the Nobel Prize

- Awarded for his invention of the prefrontal leucotomy in 1935

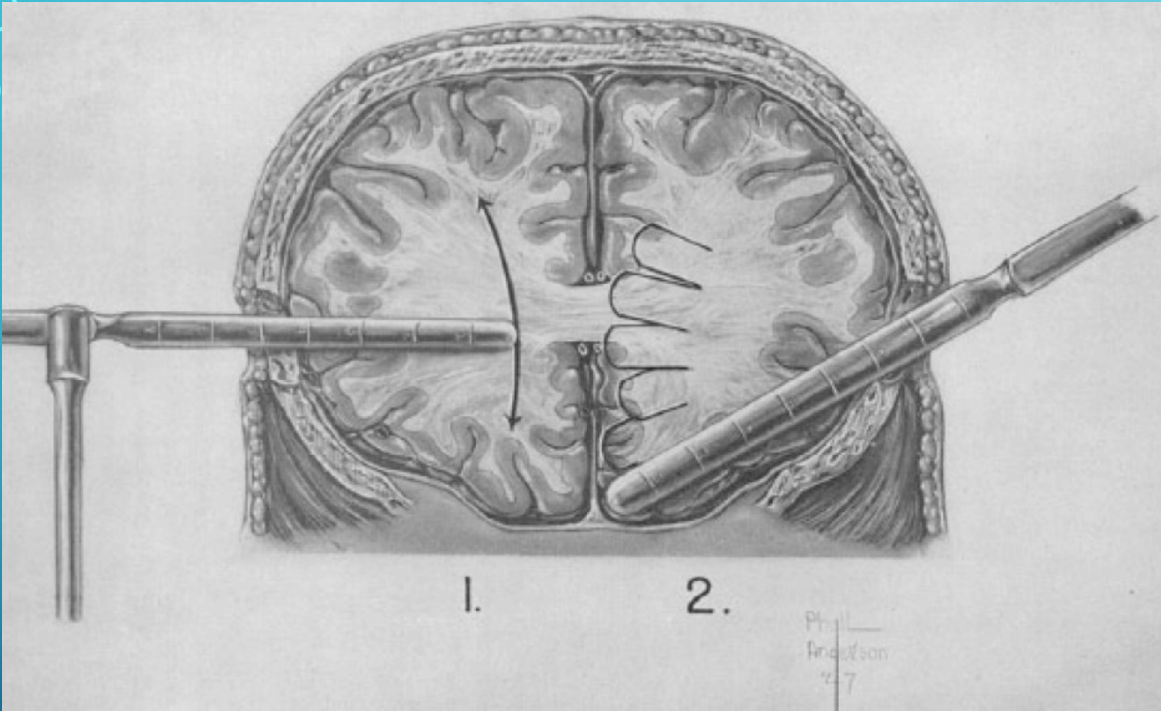
1967

Dr Freeman performs last recorded lobotomy in USA

- Resulted in patient death

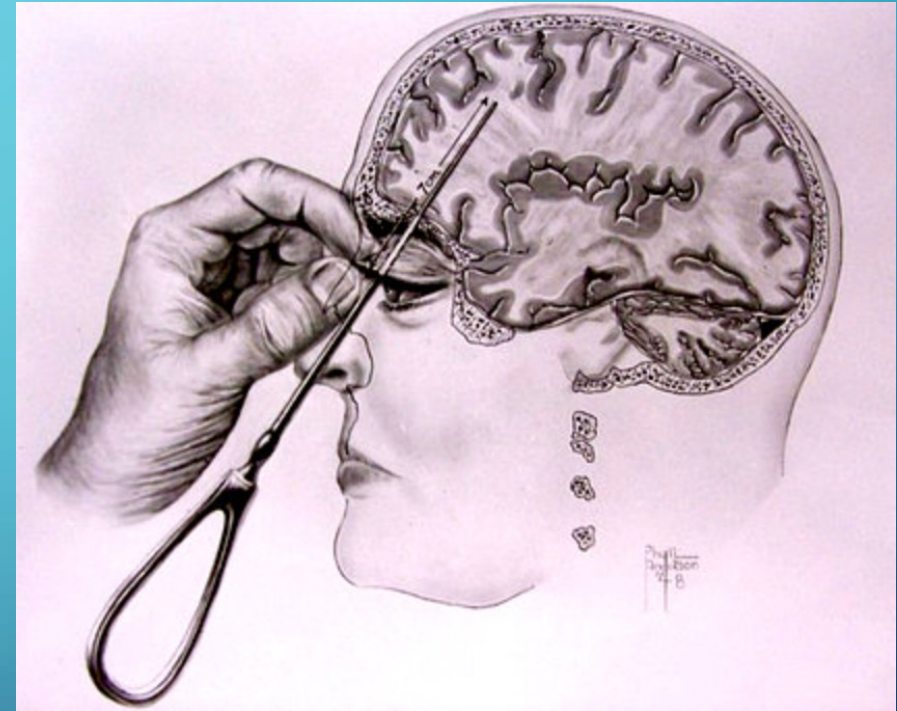
TYPES OF LOBOTOMY

Pre-frontal lobotomy:



Drawing of prefrontal lobotomy from page 42 of Freeman and Watts *Psychosurgery: the Surgical Treatment of Mental Illness*, 2nd edition (1950) . Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1039856216635906>

Trans-orbital lobotomy:



A drawing of transorbital lobotomy from Freeman's book, *Psychosurgery in the Treatment of Mental Disorders and Intractable Pain* (1951). Retrieved from <https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2019/11/01/when-faces-made-case-lobotomy>

THE SCOPE OF MENTAL HEALTH

- Treatment options in the 1930s – strait jackets and padded cells

1937 USA data:

- Over 450,000 patients
- 477 asylums
- Over \$24 billion dollars

WHY?

- No psychotropic medications
- Tertiary syphilis endemic
- WW1 veterans

THE SCOPE OF MENTAL HEALTH

"Prefrontal lobotomy ... has recently been having a certain vogue, probably not unconnected with the fact that it makes the custodial care of many patients easier. Let me remark in passing that killing them makes their custodial care still easier"

- Norbert Weiner, 1948

FREEMANS BEFORE AND AFTER



Figure 132 (a). Case 121. March 23, 1942, before operation. "Forever fighting . . . the meanest woman."



Figure 132 (c). Case 121. April 4, 1942, eleven days after lobotomy. She giggles a lot.

Freeman's case number 121. Page 418 from Psychosurgery. Retrieved from <https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2019/11/01/when-faces-made-case-lobotomy>



Figure 132 (f) Case 121. June 15, 1946, three years after lobotomy. "Refused to marry a drunkard."

Freeman's case number 121. Page 419 from Psychosurgery. Retrieved from <https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2019/11/01/when-faces-made-case-lobotomy>

WHY A TRANSORBITAL LOBOTOMY?

- Less than 10 minutes per procedure
- No need for sterile environment, surgical scrubs, general anesthesia
- No longer needed neurosurgical assistance
- Could take transorbital lobotomy's on the road
- Equal parts showman and doctor – completed both eyes at once

ROSEMARY KENNEDYS LOBOTOMY



- Born 1918
- Minor intellectual disabilities
- Became rebellious as a teenager
- Secret lobotomy in 1941, aged 23

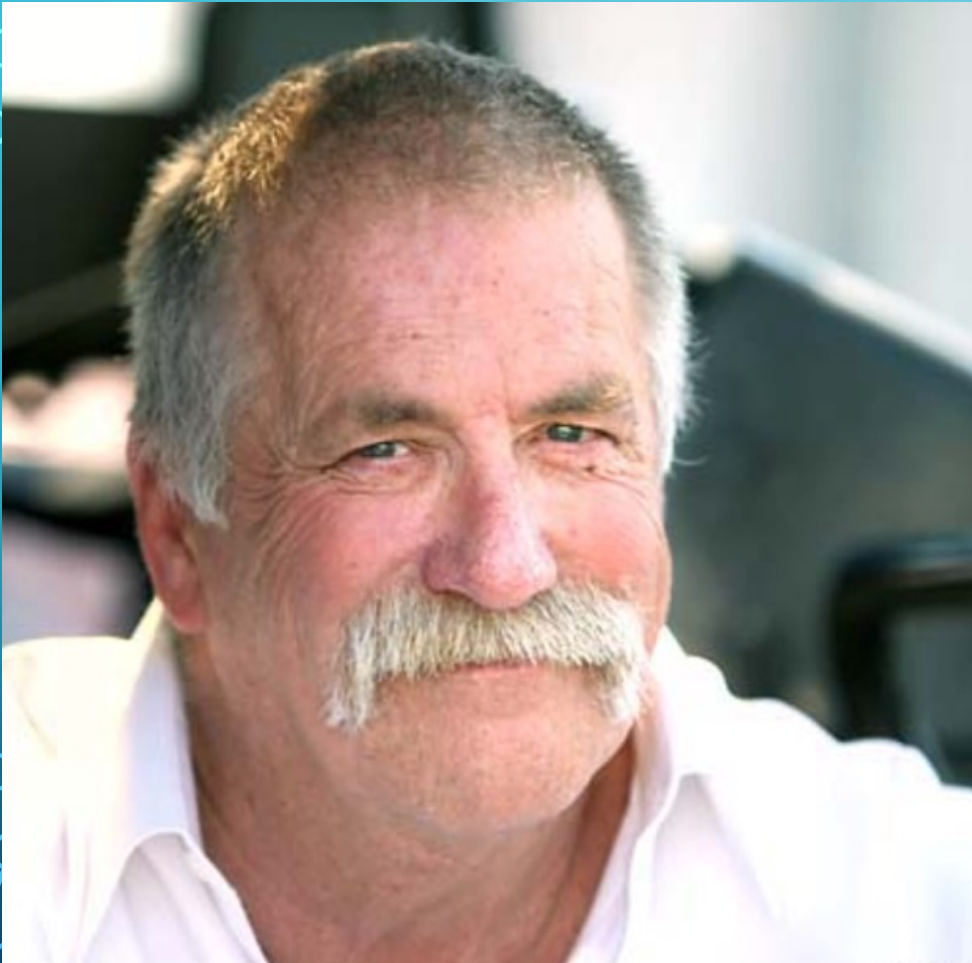
Result of lobotomy:

- Mentally and physically disabled for life

Retrieved from
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/rosemary-kennedy-the-eldest-kennedy-daughter.htm>

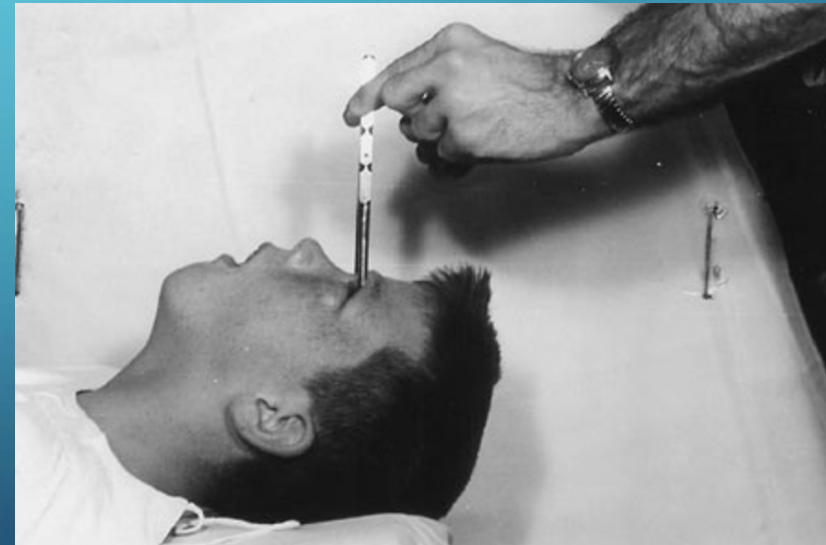
Retrieved from
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/rosemary-kennedy-the-eldest-kennedy-daughter.htm>

HOWARD DULLYS LOBOTOMY



- Lobotomy in 1960, aged 12
- Lobotomy to 'change personality'

"He objects to going to bed but then sleeps well. He does a good deal of daydreaming and when asked about it he says 'I don't know'"



Retrieved from:

<https://www.sfgate.com/entertainment/article/His-lobotomy-his-recovery-in-his-words-2521230.php>

Retrieved from:

<https://www.npr.org/2005/11/16/5014080/my-lobotomy-howard-dullys-journey>

THE END OF LOBOTOMY

- Shift in public opinion
- More people aware of the consequences of lobotomy
- Drugs introduced - Thorazine
- Rapid development in psychopharmaceuticals

The background is a blue gradient with white circuit-like lines in the corners. The lines consist of straight segments and small circles, resembling a stylized PCB or neural network diagram.

LESSONS FROM LOBOTOMY?

REFERENCES

- Faria, M. A., Jr. 2013. "Violence, mental illness, and the brain - A brief history of psychosurgery: Part 1 - From trephination to lobotomy." *Surg Neurol Int* 4: 49. <https://doi.org/10.4103/2152-7806.110146>.
- Garnett, Carla. 2019. "When Faces Made the Case for Lobotomy." National Institutes of Health. <https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2019/11/01/when-faces-made-case-lobotomy>.
- James P. Caruso, and Jason P. Sheehan. 2017. "Psychosurgery, ethics, and media: a history of Walter Freeman and the lobotomy." *Journal of Neurosurgery* 43 (3): 1-7. https://thejns.org/focus/view/journals/neurosurg-focus/43/3/article-pE6.xml?tab_body=pdf-25682.
- "Lobotomy." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed May 10, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/science/lobotomy>.
- Miller, Emily Lonna. 2019. "Be a Man: Childhood, Masculinity, Mental Hygiene, and the Asylum in the 1950's." Theses, Dissertations and Capstones, Marshall University <https://mds.marshall.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2217&context=etd>.
- "My Lobotomy': Howard Dully's Journey." NPR, November 16, 2005. <https://www.npr.org/2005/11/16/5014080/my-lobotomy-howard-dullys-journey>.
- Phelan, Jo, Bruce Link, Ann Stueve, and Bernice Pescosolido. 2000. "Public Conceptions of Mental Illness in 1950 and 1996: What Is Mental Illness and Is It to be Feared?" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 41. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2676305>.
- Robison, R. A., A. Taghva, C. Y. Liu, and M. L. Apuzzo. 2012. "Surgery of the mind, mood, and conscious state: an idea in evolution." *World Neurosurg* 77 (5-6): 662-86. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wneu.2012.03.005>.
- "Rosemary Kennedy, the Eldest Kennedy Daughter (U.S. National Park Service)." National Parks Service. Accessed May 10, 2023. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/rosemary-kennedy-the-eldest-kennedy-daughter.htm>.
- Rooney, A. 2022. *Neuroscience: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Brain & Consciousness*. Arcturus Publishing.
- Tan, S. Y., and A. Yip. 2014. "António Egas Moniz (1874-1955): Lobotomy pioneer and Nobel laureate." *Singapore Med J* 55 (4): 175-6. <https://doi.org/10.11622/smedj.2014048>.
- White, Richard T, and Martin McGee-Collett. 2016. "A portrait of prefrontal lobotomy performed at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney by Dr Rex Money." *Australasian Psychiatry* 24 (5): 428-430. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1039856216635906>. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1039856216635906>.