

Driving a bike after the diagnosis vegetable.

The Netherlands, November 2001: For some time Peter lived alone on his sailing houseboat, but suddenly he went missing. After his oldest son discovered his boat, he found his father, unconscious on board. How long Peter already was in this comatose condition, is unknown.

After 911 was called, Peter was transported with urgency to the hospital, where they found that he had a high fever, but the cause for the coma was not immediately clear. They had to guess: A suicide attempt? Poisoning? Carbon monoxide poisoning? Beverage or drug abuse? Peter himself, was in a sort of coma and couldn't answer any questions.

The doctors couldn't find any clear reason for his condition, but his condition rapidly went worse.

When his heartbeat and temperature went to a critical state of 35, a desperate attempt was taken to save him. He was injected with an unknown substance and transported to another hospital, where he was placed in a sort of incubator, with

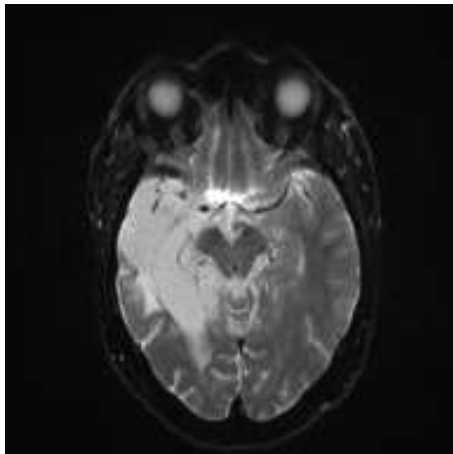
additional life-support equipment. All in an attempt to rise his temperature and heartbeat. Slowly his body temperature began to rise and his heartbeat regained a normal rhythm; his body started to normalize. After that, they made an E.E.G. and the neurologist gave Peter's former girlfriend a disheartening message: Peter would probably not make it and die anyway. Because the E.E.G. not only showed severe brain damage, there was also evidence that his brainstem was damaged. He would likely become a vegetable. Because Peter had filled-in NO at his donor-codicil, organ-donation was excluded and after some time Peter awoke again. He was like a baby, in diapers again, couldn't talk, or walk and needed full care and had to learn everything all over again. That took a long time and confronted him with difficult and scary situations. His orientation was vanished, as well as the part of his brain where it once was situated.

Also his sense of identity had changed and that, together with his lack of orientation, created very scary situations. During the time he stubbornly tried to walk again, he regularly got lost in his own room. Peter had to learn to live with another sense of space and feelings about direction and a new identity and also his relatives had to learn to deal with this new Peter. Despite of the fact that more than a quarter of his brain has vanished and an apparent brainstem damage, 15 years after the coma, Peter lives a normal life and drives a car and a motorcycle. He plays billiard and makes music with two small orchestras and a choir and works as a volunteer in social programs and visits people at home. He also contributes in terminal care programs, for people that want to die in peace at home. He gives lectures about his changed vision of life and wrote two books, which are both published. Despite of the lack of more than a quarter of his brain and a damaged brainstem, Peter experiences little limitations and nobody seems to notice anything particular about him. He changed his limitations in new capabilities and properties that assist him to become a more whole person. His lost orientation was easily solved by a conventional navigation device.

During the period he was braindead, he experienced that his consciousness was still present.



While he was still recovering in the hospital, an aunt of his former girlfriend, who was very religious, came to pay him a visit. Peter asked her downright: "Did you pray for me?". She answered: "Of Course my boy, of course I did, why are you asking me that?" Peter told her that he had experienced a clear dream, in which he had seen her praying in a little chapel. After that, he gave a detailed description of the chapel, in which he had seen her. This aunt started crying and said: "You can't possibly know what you are telling me. This chapel you are describing, is orientated in my basement. I personally created it to perform my meditations. Nobody knows that it exists and nobody has ever been there, but me." After that, an almost holy silence filled the hospital room and embraced a sacred moment. How could Peter possibly have known about this private chapel and how it looked like and even that it existed? Moreover: How could he dream, while he was declared braindead? What sort of brain-activity is dreaming? While an E.E.G. scan showed a flat line, which represented no brain-activity; Peter was still conscious in his dream-world and also experienced a peculiar sort of pain. That pain was easy traceable to the moment a catheter was inserted. His consciousness created all kind of experiences, but obviously not on a scale that was detectable, or measurable by the standard procedures of science. Consciousness often is much more than can be detected. Left: a scan of Peters brain with the damage in Jan.2015.



Light grey is brainfluid, where his brain has dissolved. Dark grey are the remains of his brain. Peter registered a NO in the donor register, because he was convinced that organ-transplantation is far more than simply moving an organ from one, to another body. According to Paul Pearsall, author and an American psycho-neuro-immunologist: our heart has a memory, that reveals as new habits' and/or interests in the receiver of the heart. As from 2016 he knows that an organ transplantation occurs after the ascertainment of braindead, but before the donor actually dies! He also found that the donor doesn't get any anesthetics, just an neuromuscular blocking agent, which paralyzes him. He was deeply

shocked by this truth and since then, he begun to share his experiences. About what happened to him, he wrote inter alia:

I was able to write the following, because there was a NO in my donor-codicil. A YES would have meant my death, 15years ago, in an operating room, during the removal of my organs, without any anesthetic! I would have died, because of the removal of my organs, not because of my brain-damage, that caused my coma. Never the last, my death certificate would have stated: Death, because of brain-failure and that would have been an absolute lie!

Organs are taken-out while the donor is still alive, but unable to give any signs about what he/she is experiencing. Often due to brain-damage. We are miss-informed about that fact! After my brain and brainstem were severely damaged by a herpes Encephalitis infection, my heartbeat and temperature went down to 35, which is critical. That's why I was transferred to another hospital, where they had a sort of big incubator with live-supporting equipment. After an E.E.G test showed a flat line and a M.R.I. of my brain showed the havoc that the Herpes Encephalitis had left behind, I was diagnosed as a 'vegetable'. My former girlfriend was informed likewise and also was told that it wasn't likely that I was going to wake up again and was advised to say goodbye. Over a quarter of my brain was completely vanished.

Later emerged that the only thing that was needed for my recovery, was time! Time to resolve the enormous pressure in my brain, that the Herpes had caused, while it putrefied my brain.

That took a lot of time; 3 months of hospitalization and an equal time of revalidation afterwards. Only because of my NO, my treatment was continued until I woke up again. If I had written YES in my donor codicil, the diagnose 'vegetable' would have led to my death. As an ideal donor, 50years and healthy, all my vital organs would have been removed! Without any anesthetic, in the most vulnerable time of my life: At the point that I couldn't speak for myself, or reach out for help from some loved one.

Organs are always taken out while the donor is alive! Organs from a corpse are worthless. The recruiting campaigns for organ-donation are a farce and based on false information. The so called term: brain dead, isn't the same as dead and is invented as an excuse to absolve doctors of the fact that they are committing murder, for the benefits of the organ-industry! Brain-dead is a life-threatening neurological condition, but this medical jargon doesn't change a living patient into a corpse, in which you can cut to your heart's content!

I never was a corpse and still are not, but was unable to make that noticeable at the time the doctors declared that I had become a vegetable. By the way; vegetables do live!

The farce, that is taking place when medical doctors declare a seriously ill patient braindead, ridicules the oath of Hippocrates, which doctors swear and is an gigantic medical fault!

Until today there is still no valid method to detect the existence of consciousness, let alone a method for proving the absence of consciousness. The absence of a measurable E.E.G. is still taken as a proof that a person is not conscious anymore, ergo: braindead, but at the same time, the body is still alive. An accepted stigma in medical science is that: if somewhere, in the deepest parts of the human brain, is activity: That can't be the neural activity that is needed to experience awoken consciousness. Braindead is an artificial concept for the benefits of the organ-industry and as such, a camouflaged crime, which lays the fate of defenseless patients in the hands of legal murderers. I lately heard that more and more doctors refuse to contribute, for ethical reasons, in explantation procedures.

It is not ethical to kill one patient, for the benefits of another, nor ethical to put the interests of a conscious patient, before an unconscious patient. That's arbitrary.

Just because some patients can make clear what they need and others don't, should not make any difference in the approach of any doctor. My body parts could have been used, to patch up someone else, just because I wasn't able to express what my needs ware.

Braindead or sick to death, what is the difference and who is to decide whose interests are prevalent? It's kind of hard to swallow, but apparently this is the way it goes.

Remember: It saved my life, because I had 'NO' in my donor codicil.

Remember: what was your choice? It might save your life too.

Peter v.d. Oetelaar