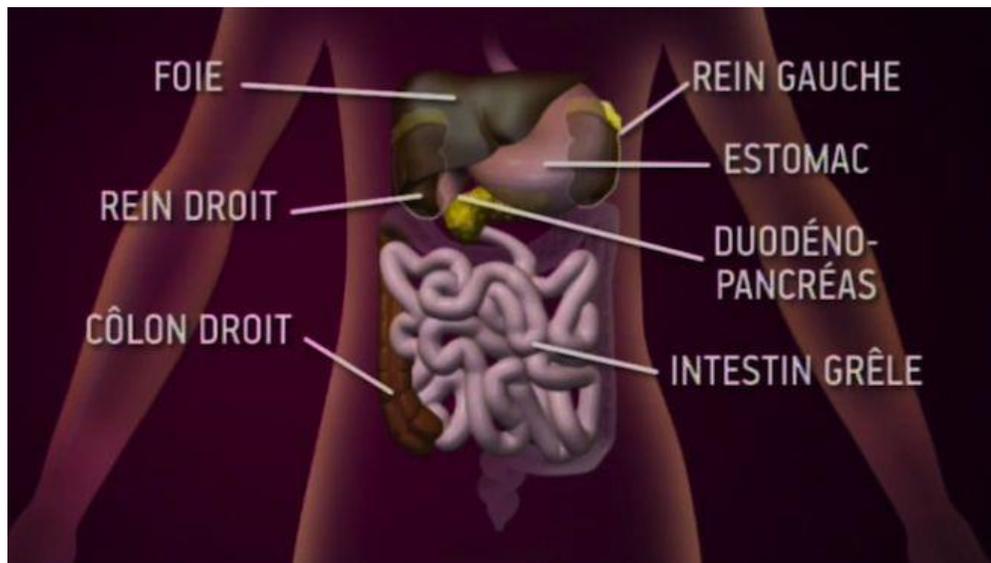


7 organs transplanted into a child, from the stomach to the colon, via the kidneys”



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Four years ago, in 2010, at the Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital of Paris, in the greatest discretion, a child benefited from a transplant of seven organs, from the stomach to the colon, via the kidneys.

Explanations with Pr. Christophe Chardot, Head of Pediatric and Transplant Surgery at Necker Hospital, one of the three surgeons who performed this multi-organ transplant

It's an amazing operation, the last chance operation. In 2010, Erika, a German girl aged 5 at the time, receives the liver, the two kidneys, the stomach, the small intestine, the right colon and finally the duodeno-pancreas of the same donor.

Since her birth, Erika has been living with Hirschsprung's disease, one of the most common malformations of the digestive tract, a condition that prevents the terminal part of the bowel from working well. In his case, it is the whole area of the stomach to the rectum that does not work. The nerves of the digestive wall being malformed, the digestive tract cannot contract normally to ensure the progression of food. Result: intestinal transit is not done, the girl cannot eat normally and all other organs are affected. The only solution is the transplant.

Twelve hours of surgical intervention

At the Necker Hospital, three surgeons are preparing for this multi-organ transplant in the operating room.

Pr. Sabine Irtan, Pr. Yves Aigrain and Pr. Christophe Chardot will work for twelve hours. "We removed all the diseased organs in one bloc that we replaced with the graft in one bloc," says Professor Christophe Chardot. "The impression is strange because the abdomen is completely unoccupied, it is a situation that we do not meet very often in surgery".

After the intervention, the girl is supported by a resuscitation team. It will take several weeks of complex care, involving hepatology, immunology radiology so she can go home.

This transplant of several organs was not a world first, but it is the culmination of the intestinal transplant that began a few years ago by the intestine alone then by the intestine and the liver until arriving in the case of Erika, to all the digestive organs. The other difficulty was to find a graft of suitable size for the child, it can take several months or even years.

An almost normal life

Today, the little girl aged 8 and a half is fine. She has found an almost normal life, she goes to school, and no longer has a catheter. Thanks to her new intestine, she is cured of Hirschprung's disease.

Erika eats almost normally, at night only she receives a supplement of food thanks to a gastrostomy, a small button which goes directly in the stomach. Nevertheless, explains Prof. Chardot, "this little girl will have anti-rejection treatment for life, but also a very close monitoring to check that her organs do not show rejection and that she does not develop complications of immuno-suppressive treatment especially infections or tumors".