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-----------	---------------	-------	--------------	--------------

The New York Times

Monday, September 28, 2009


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Man Who Got Baboon Cells Is Doing Well, Doctors Say

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN
Published: Monday, December 18, 1995

Jeff Getty, the 38-year-old man who received a baboon bone marrow transplant last Thursday in a risky experiment to battle AIDS, was "doing very well" today, his doctors said.

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Mr. Getty shared a pizza with his family on Saturday night and had a big breakfast this morning, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Mr. Getty is in isolation in his room at San Francisco General Hospital as a protection against infection while his immune system is further weakened temporarily by the chemotherapy and radiation treatment he received last week. The treatment was necessary to prevent his body from rejecting the baboon bone marrow, which he is receiving because it is resistant to HIV-1, the principal virus that causes AIDS.

It will take months before doctors learn whether the transplanted baboon cells can function to help restore his immune system and fight off the many so-called opportunistic infections that can be fatal to people with AIDS. The experiment is being conducted at the

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