



Doctors in Maryland, US, moved a pig heart into a human. The operation took seven hours, and doctors used a **genetically-modified** pig heart. There were similar operations in the past, but they were never successful.

Last week's operation was successful because the patient's body did not **reject** the heart immediately. The patient was doing well three days after the operation, but it was not possible to say if he would live or for how long.

The patient was a 57-year-old man from Maryland. The operation was his last chance because he was too sick to get a human heart. The operation was not a usual procedure, and doctors needed special **permission** to complete it.

**Difficult words:** **genetically-modified** (when scientists change the genetic information of a living thing or its body parts), **reject** (to not accept), **permission** (when someone allows someone else to do something).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the word: *genetically modified, reject and permission*
2. What kind of heart did the doctors in Maryland, USA move into a human?
3. Why did the doctors consider the operation successful?
4. Do the doctors know how long the 57-year-old man could live?
5. Why did they move a pig heart to the patient instead of a human heart?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Apart from pig heart, what other animal heart have been used in human heart transplant?
2. Why do you think doctors turn to using genetically modified animal heart in their procedures?
3. If you had terminal heart disease and needed a surgery right away but there were no available human heart to be used, would you agree to receive an animal heart transplant to survive? Why or why not?