

The first pediatric heart transplant was performed at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, in 1982. That patient, a five-year-old child born with tet, is still alive today.

“It’s amazing, isn’t it ?” The heart transplant is one of the easiest procedures pediatric heart surgeon perform, but it never loses its powerful effect on the imagination. “It’s amazing.” Roger repeats. “The beating of a healthy heart.”

Rejection is the first major danger following a transplant, the second is coronary artery disease -coronary arteries will start to block off soon or later- , and the third is cancer.

According to UNOS data, average half-life of a child who’s had a heart transplant is twelve years – meaning that twelve years after surgery, half of all transplant patients have died.

Roger describes his bottom line to his young cardiologists: “If we’re not going to do it on our own kids , I don’t think we can recommend it to parents. Our acid test must always be, would we do it for our own kids ?”

“I came here because I needed a pedigree,” Frank said. ”I came here specifically because I needed to learn the switch, because Roger is the best in the world. Roger’s got a reputation for being difficult, but that’s part of the culture.”

“Roger Mee walks on water here. You go to Michigan, they’ll tell you , ‘Ed Bove walks on water’ That’s why Jonathan’s leaving.”

“Why ?”

“He can’t walk on water here.”

“So someday you’re going to walk on water, then?”

“No way, man. I’m a swimmer all the way.”

Walk on Water

Michael Ruhlman (Author)