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**From:** John Brockman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2011 1:27 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Epstein  
**Subject:** miserable week

JE,

>>checking in, how are youop

The second operation, scheduled for this past Tuesday. turned into a miserable experience. We arrived at HSS on time at 10:30 and were told we were on schedule and to get ready. We were put in a double room for prepping. I had not eaten since midnight and stopped drinking liquids in the morning. But I did manage to take a couple of Xanax walking in, to get me through the ordeal.

Instead of rapidly proceeding to surgery we sat in the room (with me in hospital clothes in a bed) for at least four hours while three other sets of patients came and went and had meetings with their doctors, anesthesiologists, etc. In the meantime I was starving and desperately trying not to hear the medical talk on the other side of the curtain that makes me ill. Finally, long after the xanax wore off, they came for me, to me to OR, gave me the anesthesia, and four later I awoke to find that they couldn't operate because my heart was racing much too fast with an irregular beat. The result was imprisonment in recuperative care for 4 hours - as though I was a heart attack victim - with beta blockers infusions of magnesium, constant checking about low blood pressure.

But prior to being wheeled into OR a nurse took my blood pressure, said it was low, and didn't tell anyone in OR. And the hospital doctor didn't check me (he had done so two weeks ago for the first operation).

Patrick O'Leary, the surgeon, stopped in Wednesday am while I was still in the hospital to say we have been rethinking his plan for me and in this regard he advised me get an MRI before I left. His latest thought: rest a month and then come back for the second operation. He also mentioned that the second operation was dangerous. But strange that all this conversation happened after the operation was to have been finished.

The hospital medical doctor - a Dr. Lefkowitz ([REDACTED]) - who clears patients for surgery called to say O'Leary wants me to see him for a stress test next week and other possible heart tests (echo - ultrasound). He, or another hospital doctor - prescribed a bottle of beta-blockers - Metoprolol XL 25MG 25 MG for Toprol X for me to take every day but not the day of the stress test.

I don't think there's anything wrong with my heart other than being scared and starved to death by the environment at the hospital. And I'm not ready to go see this other doctor or to start taking Beta Blockers. In other words, I go in for a cervical spine problem and suddenly I'm a cardiac patient. I'm not buying it. It's also really strange and disconcerting being in a hospital recuperation ward getting a lot of prescription drugs fed intravenously by a nurse when the doctor who is ordering them is not on the floor nor is someone connected to any of the doctors I already know. Finally, this was a major surgery scheduled for at least 4 hours. It seems weird that they were planning to begin at 4pm in the afternoon.

O'Leary wanted me to come in Monday to talk, but he's away until a week from Monday when I have an appointment with him (April 11). In the meantime, my internist (who I've been with for 40 years) has a hunch he may not want to operate. The 2nd opinion from Michael Mayer in Munich as to operate, see how it goes and whether the second operation even necessary.

I am definitely out of my depth on this one. Instead of coming out of this today with both surgeries done, I feel like I'm in Alice in Wonderland.

I will be in the office at 11am if you have time to call.

JB



p.s. Read David Brooks this week. His entire column Tuesday and his =log Wednesday on my EDGE site. It doesn't get any better:

THE NEW YORK TIMES

March 29, 2011

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/29/opinion/29brooks.html?\\_r=2&ref=opini=n](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/29/opinion/29brooks.html?_r=2&ref=opini=n)

OpEd Column

TOOLS FOR THINKING

By David Brooks

""We'd certainly be better off if everyone sampled the fabulous Edge =ymposium, which, like the best in science, is modest and daring all at =nce."

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

March 29, 2011

More Tools For Thinking

<http://brooks.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/29/more-tools-for-thinking/>

Brooks Blog

There were many superb entries in that symposium, and I only had space =o highlight a few, so I'd like to mention a few more here.

"Before I do, let me just recommend that symposium for the following =easons. First, it will give you a good survey of what many leading =cientists, especially those who study the mind and society, are =hinking about right now. You'll also be struck by the tone. There is an =cute awareness, in entry after entry, of how little we know and how =omplicated things are. You'll come away with a favorable impression of =he epistemological climate in this subculture."

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