

BRAIN RESUSCITATION AND ORGAN PRESERVATION DEVICE AND METHOD

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to treating ischemic and anoxic brain injuries associated with cardiac arrest. More particularly, the present invention provides an apparatus and method for resuscitation of the brain and maintenance of viability during trauma or other periods of decreased blood flow, allowing the health professional extra time to restore blood circulation. With the present invention, the brain and associated neurologic tissues remain intact, throughout attempts to restart the victim's heart and restore circulation, allowing the victim increased chances of survival with less chance of permanent brain damage.

The present invention also provides an apparatus and method for preserving organs in brain-dead patients or cadavers, which keeps the requisite organs viable for extended time periods. With this invention, the organs may be preserved such that they are suitable for subsequent harvesting and transplantation.

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Brief Description of the Prior Art

During cardiac arrest, the heart ceases to pump blood. Subsequently, there is no circulation, and the brain fails to receive freshly oxygenated blood. Without a steady supply of oxygenated blood, the brain will cease to function.

Current resuscitation techniques for cardiac arrest have been directed almost exclusively towards the heart. However, even with methods such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), patient survival rates are low. In hospitals and clinics with advanced CPR and life support systems, the survival rate is normally around 14%. Outside of hospital settings, the survival rate is about 5%.

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Among cardiac arrest victims overall, less than 10% survive neurologically intact and without significant brain damage. The other approximately 90% either die or sustain some neurologic injury from ischemia (i.e., lack of blood flow to the brain), or anoxia (i.e., lack of oxygen to the brain). Such frequency of neurologic injury occurs because after cardiac arrest, basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation and advanced life support techniques, such as CPR, closed heart cardiac chest massage, and electroshock treatments, typically require fifteen to twenty minutes to regain circulation from a failed heart. Reversible neurologic damage beings as early as four minutes and irreversible neurologic damage beings as early as six minutes after circulation stops. To combat this potential neurologic injury, initial resuscitation efforts need to be directed toward reviving the brain in addition to resuscitating the heart.

As indicated above, anoxic and ischemic brain injuries from cardiac arrest result in damage to the brain and associated neurologic tissues after about four minutes. In contrast, the heart can survive intact up to four hours after cardiac arrest. The short viability of brain tissue upon deprived oxygenated blood is a result of the requirement of high amounts of nutrients for tissue maintenance. Brain tissue uses almost all of the nutrients supplied by the circulating blood for maintenance and has very little remaining for storage. Absent blood flow to the brain, the small amount of stored nutrients is rapidly exhausted. once exhausted, brain oxygen content rapidly depletes. This oxygen depletion is traumatic and causes a series of reactions in the oxygen starved brain tissue cells. These reactions produce free radical ions, primarily consisting of the superoxide radical O_2^- . These free radicals complex with proteins in the brain and associated neurologic tissues, altering respiration,



energy transfer and other vital cellular functions, and irreversibly damaging these tissues.

Prior efforts at resuscitating the brain have involved highly invasive treatments, intruding
5 physically into the brain itself. Such invasive techniques are described in U.S. Patents 4,378,797 and 4,445,500 issued to Osterholm. These patents describe a stroke treatment method which is a direct physical intrusion into the brain itself. In this method, an
10 opening is drilled directly through the skull through the brain into the pons or brain ventricles. These areas are then directly cannulated and flooded with room temperature oxygenated perfluorocarbons. These entering perfluorocarbons mix with cerebral spinal fluid, whereby
15 they are carried throughout the brain and associated neurologic tissues through channels within the central nervous system, sometimes referred to as the "third circulation." Excess fluid is drained through an opening invasively placed in the cisterna magna of the
20 brain.

This stroke treatment method has several drawbacks. This method must be performed in a surgical environment by a skilled surgical team. It cannot be done by a single person with basic medical training. It
25 cannot be done in the field or other emergency type settings. The device used in performing this stroke treatment is not portable. Additionally, since this procedure is invasive (drilling directly into the brain), there is a high risk of mechanical damage to the
30 brain and associated neurologic tissues. Finally, the treatment fluid used contains essentially perfluorocarbons. It lacks any agents needed to inhibit free radical damage.

Additionally, despite the dramatic success and
35 increase in the number of organ transplants, there remains a massive shortfall of organs suitable for donation and subsequent transplant. The demand for



organs remains greater than the supply. As a result, thousands of people unnecessarily die.

This is an irony because of the potential abundance of suitable organs. Specifically, more than
5 1.5 million Americans who die from trauma, accidents or cardiac arrest with organs suitable for transplant, could easily have their organs salvaged.

Present salvaging techniques include putting the organ in ice after having been perfused in a Collins
10 solution. This Collins solution mimics the internal environment of the cells, which form the organ tissue, and keeps the organ viable for approximately forty-eight hours. In most cases, these present methods do not permit sufficient time to transfer a suitable viable
15 organ to the needy recipient. This is because organs deprived of oxygen nutrient rich blood flow in a body at normal body temperature suffer irreversible damage and injury in just a few hours or less. For example, the heart must be salvaged almost immediately, while the
20 kidneys must be salvaged within one to three hours.

Under present circumstances, the time prior to that which a potentially transferable organ may be salvaged is usually delayed. This occurs because the brain-dead person must first be brought to a hospital.
25 Alternatively, a person dying outside a hospital or other clinical setting must first be brought to a morgue and be pronounced dead. The family must then sign organ donation forms. Only after the brain-dead person has been brought to a hospital and the organ donation
30 procedures are complete, may a surgical team be permitted access to the body to harvest the viable organs for transplant. This procedure takes time to a point where organs are irreversibly damaged or are no longer viable.

35 It is therefore an object of this invention to non-invasively treat ischemic and anoxic brain injuries immediately upon cardiac arrest whereby resuscitation



efforts are applied in time for a patient to survive neurologically intact. By directing resuscitating efforts to immediately treating the brain, the present invention allows medical personnel substantial
5 additional time (beyond the critical four minute window) to regain the failed heart's circulation without the patient suffering neurologic damage.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a method of treating ischemic and anoxic brain
10 injuries suffered upon cardiac arrest so as to inhibit free radical chemical species from complexing with proteins in the brain and neurologic tissue to avoid permanent irreversible damage.

It is another object of the invention to
15 resuscitate the brain by establishing a non-invasive, artificial circulation of synthetically oxygenated blood to the brain.

It is yet another object of the invention to prevent and reverse potential damage to the brain and
20 associated neurologic tissue suffered as a result of ischemic injury due to cardiac arrest, major trauma, suffocation, drowning, electrocution, blood loss and toxic poisoning from substances including carbon monoxide and cyanide.

25 It is further object of the invention to provide a device for treating the aforementioned injuries, which is suited for field as well as clinical use and that can be operated by a single person with minimal medical training and experience.

30 It is still another object of the invention to provide a solution capable of inhibiting free radical ions from complexing with proteins in brain and associated neurologic tissue, and capable of protecting these tissues and reversing injuries to these tissues,
35 thereby expanding the brain's critical four minute viability window.

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It is still another object of this invention to provide a method of preserving organs in their viable states in brain-dead patients or cadavers, in order for organ harvesting, whereby the harvested organs are
5 suitable for transplantation.

It is still another object of the invention to prevent and reverse potential damage to a brain-dead patient's or cadaver's organs prior to organ harvesting such that the harvested organs remain viable for
10 harvesting, whereby they are suitable for transplantation.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention focuses on initial
15 resuscitation efforts toward resuscitating the brain due to its short viability, rather than the heart. The invention includes a non-invasive method which reverses and inhibits neurologic damage, and resulting ischemic and anoxic injury upon cardiac arrest. The method
20 includes establishing an artificial circulation by catheterizing the circulatory system in both external carotid arteries, to deliver essential treatment components in a synthetic brain resuscitation solution to the brain. Once catheterized, the brain is driven
25 into a submetabolic coma as barbiturates are introduced through the catheter. This coma lowers the brain's metabolism and decreases free radical production, while keeping its tissues viable. The brain is oxygenated by introducing temperature controlled perfluorocarbons,
30 which are super-saturated with oxygen. These perfluorocarbons act as a blood substitute and transport oxygen in a manner similar to hemoglobin. Free radical damage is inhibited by introducing antioxidants, free radical scavengers. The antioxidants complex with ionic
35 O_2^- and prevent the ions from complexing with proteins in brain tissue, which is a cause of irreversible damage. Protecting and reversing neurologic damage is

accomplished by introducing Lazaroids, an experimental drug class now being developed by the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

All of the above-mentioned compositions are included in a single brain resuscitation solution. This brain resuscitation solution is delivered to the brain in a chilled condition. The fluid is chilled by cooling it to a temperature sufficiently low to hypothermically shock the brain. At this point, the brain's metabolism is slowed and free radical production decreases. The brain is additionally cooled externally with natural or synthetic ice packs around the patient's head.

Once the procedure is complete, continuing efforts are then made to resuscitate the heart and restore the circulation. This can be achieved by drug administration, CPR (manual and mechanical), chest compression, and the like.

Additionally, the present invention discloses a method of resuscitating or preserving organs (collectively known as organ preservation) in a brain-dead patient or cadaver prior to their harvesting for transplant, such that viable organ is transplanted. The method includes establishing an artificial circulation within the organ by catheterizing a major blood or lymph vessel supplying the organ or organ tissue parenchyma, to deliver essential treatment components in a synthetic solution to it. The solution is cooled below body temperature and introduced through the catheter. The solution includes components which serve to lower the organ's metabolism and decrease free radical production, while keeping the organ viable. Specifically, the solution includes temperature-controlled perfluorocarbons, which are super-saturated with oxygen. These perfluorocarbons oxygenate the organ by acting as a blood substitute, transporting oxygen in a manner similar to hemoglobin. Free radical damage is inhibited by introducing antioxidants, free radical scavengers.



The antioxidants complex with the ionic O_2^- and prevent the ions from complexing with proteins in the tissue, which is a cause of irreversible damage. Further tissue damage protection is accomplished by introducing

- 5 Lazaroids, an experimental drug class now being developed by the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

All of the above-mentioned compositions are included in a solution similar to that described above
10 for brain resuscitation. The only significant difference is that barbiturates, which induce a coma in the brain, while permissible, are preferably not used in organ preservation as this result is not needed in this instance. Similar to the above-mentioned brain
15 resuscitation solution, the organ preservation and resuscitation solution (hereinafter organ preservation solution), is chilled by cooling it to a sufficiently low temperature to inhibit degenerative metabolism of the organ. With the organ's metabolism is slowed, free
20 radical production decreases.

Once this procedure is complete the organ will remain viable, such that harvesting and subsequent transplantation may take place at a later time. The harvest organ will have sustained minimal, if any
25 damage, and the transplant recipient will be able to resume a normal life.

The present invention includes a device for delivering the aforementioned brain resuscitation or organ preservation solutions. The device can be adapted
30 for clinical or field use. This device includes a reservoir for holding brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution which communicates with an oxygen tank and a heat exchanger. Upon activation, the oxygen is released into the reservoir, oxygenating the brain
35 resuscitation or organ preservation solution. The oxygenated solution is then pumped from the reservoir to the heat exchanger, where it is cooled. When brain

resuscitation is desired, the cooled solution is then introduced to the patient's circulatory system through the catheterized carotid arteries or other blood vessels and directed toward the brain. Alternately, in organ
5 preservation, the cooled solution is introduced into blood or lymph vessels supplying the organ, the organ itself or the tissue surrounding the organ. For example, with the pancreas, the intestine, a surrounding tissue, would provide an organ preservation solution to
10 the pancreas by capillary circulation.

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a more complete understanding of the invention reference should be made to the drawings
15 wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front view of the portable brain resuscitation/organ preservation device of the invention illustrating the internal components;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the portable brain
20 resuscitation/organ preservation device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front view of a second embodiment of the portable device shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a flow chart of the method of the present invention; and

25 FIG. 5 is a front view of the patient being catheterized.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the brain
30 resuscitation/organ preservation device of this embodiment of the invention is semi-automatic. It includes an outer casing 22 with a handle 23 and a window 24. The window 24 is located within a first side
25 which has a greater width than length. The casing 22
35 includes an inner chamber 26. This inner chamber 26 contains components which include a reservoir 30, an

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oxygen tank 34, a heat exchanger 38, a pump 46, a logic control unit 50, and a power source 54.

The reservoir 30 holds the brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution. The solution of this invention is a fluid mixture of various components and is packaged in premixed, premeasured canisters, for a single immediate use. These canisters can be replenished (refilled) and exchanged for continued life support. The specific components are discussed below in accordance with the methods of the invention.

Preferably, this reservoir 30 is adapted to hold three liters of fluid contained within replaceable canisters 32. The preferred canisters are clear plastic bags, such that fluid depletion in the reservoir 30 can be viewed through the window 24. However, these canisters can be rigid containers, made of opaque material.

An oxygen tank 34, adjustable to various pressures, communicates with reservoir 30 through a first conduit 35. Oxygen tank 34 is sealed by a valve 36, which is opened once the device 20 is activated. Tank 34 is preferably a cylinder ten inches tall by four inches in diameter, containing oxygen pressurized to at least 17 psig.

A heat exchanger 38 capable of controlling the fluid's temperature, surrounds reservoir 30. Preferably the heat exchanger cools by undergoing an internal endothermic reaction, once a charging valve 40 is opened when a charging handle 41 on the device is activated. The exchanger contains Ammonium Nitrate and water, which are initially separate. Upon activation, these chemicals contact each other, reacting endothermically, causing the heat exchanger to cool. Additionally, the heat exchanger's cooling can be accomplished by carbon dioxide (dry ice), freon or a mechanical cooling device.

A second conduit 44 extends from the reservoir and communicates with a valve controlled pump 46, capable of pumping at various rates and modes, in



communication with a logic control unit 50. The pump 46 and the logic control 50 unit are both powered by an energy source 54. However, the device is suitable for an electric adapter. A battery pack is the preferred energy source 54. The logic control unit 50 includes (not shown) an oxygen pressure sensor, a fluid mass flow sensor, a fluid pressure indicator and regulator, a fluid temperature indicator and regulator, a fluid temperature indicator with feedback to a mass sensor, and a timing device for estimating the time the fluid in the reservoir will be depleted at a given mass flow. The logic control unit 50 can control the rate and mode of pumping, i.e. continuous or pulsatile. One example of a pulsatile rate and mode would be that which simulates the pulsed flow of a beating heart. Measurements from logic control unit 50 are displayed on an LED digital display 56. Digital display 56 preferably shows the temperature and flow rate of the brain resuscitation solution.

20 The second conduit 44 extends through the pump 46 and logic control unit 50 and terminates in a side opening 58 on the device 20. Preferably, this side opening 58 is on the side 66 adjacent to the longitudinal side 25. Side opening 58 is capable of attaching to catheter lines 60 to permit brain resuscitation solution to enter the patient's circulatory system, through catheters 62 placed into a single, but preferably both, external or internal carotid arteries. Similarly, side opening 58 is capable of attaching to catheter lines 60 to permit organ preservation solution to enter the patient's circulatory system, through catheters 62 placed into a single vessel near the organ sought to be preserved, the organ itself or tissues surrounding the organ.

35 With respect to catheters 62, one way balloon tipped catheters are preferred. The balloons generally inflate upon activation to block potential reverse blood



and brain resuscitation or organ preservation fluid flow toward the heart (except in organ preservation where the heart is being resuscitated). Additionally, it is preferred that this adjacent side 66 also contain
5 openings for venting excess oxygen 68 and for oxygen intake 69. This oxygen intake can be from the atmosphere or from adjunct oxygen sources.

Upon activating the brain resuscitation or organ preservation device, the oxygen tank valve 36
10 opens and pressurized oxygen is released from the oxygen tank 34 into contact with the brain resuscitation or organ preservation fluid, thereby oxygenating it. The heat exchanger 38 is activated by releasing the charging valve 40. Once activated, the oxygenated solution in
15 the reservoir is cooled. This cooled solution moves through a second conduit 44, drawn by sufficient pressure from the oxygen tank 34 into a logic control unit 50, powered by an energy source 54, such as a battery pack. A pump 46, within this logic control unit
20 50 further moves the chilled oxygenated solution through this second conduit. Solution then enters a catheter line 60, attached to an opening 8 in device whereby it is delivered to the brain or organ through the catheters 62.

25 The preferred embodiment of the brain resuscitation/organ preservation device 20 is relatively small. It is portable, suitcase-like in appearance, and suitable for field use, such as in ambulances, battlefields, athletic fields, aircraft, marine
30 vehicles, spacecraft, emergency treatment facilities, and the like. It is lightweight and can be carried directly to the patient. In one example of the device the outer casing measures twenty inches by eighteen inches by fifteen inches and weighs approximately thirty
35 pounds.

FIG. 3 is a second embodiment of the brain resuscitation/organ preservation device 70. This

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embodiment is mechanical. It is manually activated and is fully operative under pneumatic power generated by pressurized oxygen. Device 70 includes an outer casing 72 with a handle 73 and preferably a window 74, located
5 in a first side 75 having a greater length than width. The outer casing 72 includes an inner chamber 76. This inner chamber 76 contains components which include a reservoir 80, an oxygen tank 82, a heat exchanger 90, and a logic control unit 96.

10 The reservoir 80 holds the brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution of the invention. The brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution is a mixture of various components and is packaged in premixed, premeasured canisters, for a single immediate
15 use. These canisters can be replenished (refilled) and exchanged for continued life support. The specific components of the brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution are discussed below in accordance with their respective methods. Preferably, reservoir 80
20 is adapted to hold four to ten liters of solution contained within replaceable canisters 84. The preferred canisters are clear plastic bags through which the fluid depletion in the reservoir 80 can be viewed through the window 74.

25 Reservoir 80 communicates with an oxygen tank 82 through channels 85, which open when charging handle 86 is pulled. Oxygen tank 82 is adjustable to various pressures and is sealed by a valve 88 on the charging handle 86. The oxygen is pressurized to at least 17
30 psig.

Reservoir 80 also communicates with a heat exchanger 90, capable of controlling the solution's temperature, through a conduit 92. Similar to that of the first embodiment, the preferred heat exchanger cools
35 by undergoing an internal endothermic reaction, as explained with the first embodiment above. Heat exchanger 90 communicates with the charging handle



through a valve 94, which when activated by pulling, initiates cooling.

Conduit 92 extends through the heat exchanger 90 into a logic control unit 96. Logic control unit 96 includes (not shown) an oxygen pressure sensor, a fluid mass flow sensor, a fluid pressure indicator and valve 98 for regulating fluid pressure and flow, a fluid temperature indicator and regulator, a fluid temperature indicator with feedback to a mass sensor, and a timing device for estimating the time fluid in the reservoir 80 will be depleted at the current mass flow. Measurements from this logic control are displayed on an LED digital display 99. Digital display 99 shows the brain resuscitation or organ preservation fluid temperature and flow rate.

Conduit 92 extends from the logic control unit 96, to a terminal point 100 outside the device 70. A high pressure fluid coupling valve 102 is at this terminal point 100. The valve 102 is opened when the device 70 is activated. This terminal point 100 is suitable for attachment of catheter line 104 and subsequent catheters 106.

As with device 20, one way balloon tipped catheters are preferred in alternate device 70. Upon activation the balloon portion of the catheter inflates, blocking possible reverse blood and brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution flow toward the heart. Additionally, it is preferred that device 70 contain openings for venting excess oxygen and for oxygen intake. This oxygen intake can be from the atmosphere or adjunct oxygen sources.

Device 70 is activated when the user pulls the charging handle 86. This action opens a valve 88 on the oxygen tank 82, releasing pressurized oxygen, which moves through channels 85 into the reservoir 80 and into contact with the brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution thereby oxygenating the fluid



solution. The pressure from this released oxygen drives the oxygenated solution into conduit 92 which passes through a heat exchanger 90, thereby cooling the solution. Once the cooled oxygenated fluid solution
5 leaves the heat exchanger 90, it continues in conduit 92 through the logic control unit 96.

Once past the logic control unit 96, the solution moves through this conduit 92 until it terminates in a high pressure solution coupling valve
10 102 outside the device 70. When the high pressure valve 102 is open, the catheters 106 are coupled to this terminal conduit end 100, brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution can enter the patient's circulatory system. The oxygen pressure preferred is at
15 least 17 psig, sufficient to drive this brain resuscitation or organ preservation solution from the reservoir 80 into the brain or organ respectively.

Other alternative embodiments may have two reservoirs. This would be especially useful in brain
20 resuscitation. The first reservoir would be kept at body temperature or slightly cooler whereby this "warm" brain resuscitation solution is available to flood the brain and quickly diffuses in it, whereby the blood-brain barrier is crossed. The second reservoir is
25 available to deliver "cool" (approximately forty degrees fahrenheit) resuscitation solution, chilled by the heat exchanger, for the purpose of inducing hypothermic shock (discussed below).

Another alternative embodiment of the two-
30 reservoir device, quite advantageous for brain resuscitation, includes a first reservoir containing unoxygenated fluid, kept at body temperature or slightly below. A bolus of this "warm" unoxygenated solution is initially delivered to the brain, so as to prevent an
35 oxidative burst of free radicals. The second reservoir is available to deliver cool (approximately 40°F) oxygenated resuscitation solution to the brain for the



purpose of inducing hypothermic shock (discussed below). The above-described heat exchangers cool the solution, while oxygenating the solution occurs through either of the embodiments disclosed in FIGS. 1-3, as either of
5 these embodiments is modified such that only this second reservoir communicates with the oxygen source. The "cool" oxygenated resuscitation solution is delivered to the brain shortly after the initial "warm" unoxygenated solution has been delivered.

10 Still additional alternative embodiments may use preoxygenated solution in the reservoirs. Reservoirs containing preoxygenated fluid solution eliminate the need for oxygen tanks as these devices have sufficient power (enhanced electronics and powerful
15 pumps), capable of moving the brain resuscitation solution from the reservoir in the device to the brain.

While these two preferred embodiments are portable devices particularly suited for portable, field use, they are also suited for stationery, clinical use.
20 Should a clinical device be desired, these two portable embodiments could be made larger and modified accordingly for such use.

In operation, the brain resuscitation/organ preservation device supplies treatment solution for the
25 accompanying resuscitation or preservation methods respectively. As previously stated, one aspect of the invention comprises a method of treating anoxic and ischemic injuries suffered as a result of cardiac arrest, suffocation, drowning, electrocution, losses of
30 circulation, strokes, bodily injuries, toxic (carbon monoxide, cyanide, etc.) poisoning, and associated major trauma.

Reference is now made to FIGS. 4 and 5 which describe and show the non-invasive method of the
35 invention for brain resuscitation. Preferably, this method involves the initial step of shunting all effective cardiac output away from the lower extremities



and the abdomen 112 and toward the patient's heart and head at step 112. This shunting is preferably accomplished with mast trousers or pneumatic compression suits, which compress the lower abdomen and lower
5 extremities forcing blood to the heart. However, other equivalent devices may be employed. During this time, the patient's lungs are ventilated with 100% oxygen along with basic cardiac life support or chest percussion and ventilation at step 114.

10 An artificial circulation through the brain is established at step 116 as the patient 118 is catheterized at an injection point along the circulatory system 120. The brain resuscitation solution enters the circulatory system through at least one blood vessel
15 (artery or vein). Preferably, at least one external or internal carotid arteries are catheterized. These carotid arteries are preferred since they are large arteries leading directly to the brain and can be easily found by feeling for the carotid pulse. Alternately,
20 any other blood vessel (artery or vein) may be the injection point catheterized. Such points include the femoral arteries, or jugular veins.

Balloon type catheters 121 with the one way balloon valves at a distal point are preferred. Once
25 inserted into the arteries, the balloons inflate, limiting any reverse blood and brain resuscitation fluid solution flow toward the heart through the artery.

Prior to catheterization, the catheter lines 122 are attached to the brain resuscitation device.
30 This device is now activated and temperature controlled (chilled) oxygenated brain resuscitation solution is delivered to the brain at step 124. This brain resuscitation solution is a mixture of various components suitable for treating these ischemic and
35 anoxic injuries and keeping the brain and associated neurologic tissues intact. Specifically, the brain resuscitation solution is a fluid mixture containing



barbiturates, oxygen carrying agents, antioxidants, Lazaroids, carrier vehicles, nutrients and other chemicals.

Initially the solution is temperature
5 controlled, and delivered to the brain after having been chilled to approximately forty degrees F. At this temperature, the brain is hypothermically shocked and its metabolism, and subsequent free radical production is slowed. This temperature controlling (cooling) step
10 124 may alone allow an additional thirty minutes of brain viability. Additional cooling is achieved by applying external cooling means to the patient's head. The cooling means includes bonnets containing ice cubes, synthetic cooling packets and the like. These bonnets
15 may extend to cover the neck and spinal column.

Barbiturates comprise from about 0.000 to 20.00 percent by volume of the brain resuscitation solution. Preferably, the brain resuscitation solution includes .001 to 10.00 percent by volume of barbiturates. These
20 barbiturates drive the brain into a submetabolic coma at step 126. Brain metabolism and subsequent free radical production are further lowered.

Thiopental is the preferred barbiturate. It has a fast induction time as it can cross the blood-brain barrier in three to seven seconds. Alternately,
25 Secobarbital or Pentobarbital may be used.

Oxygen carrying agents comprise from about 0.00 to 99.90 percent by volume of this brain resuscitation solution. The preferred brain resuscitation solution
30 includes 10.00 to 99.90 percent by volume of oxygen carrying agents. Perfluorocarbons are the preferred oxygen carrying agents, as they have an extremely high oxygen carrying capacity. When delivered to the brain, in this oxidation step 128, these perfluorocarbons are
35 supersaturated with oxygen, having been oxygenated in the fluid reservoir. These perfluorocarbons act as a blood substitute, carrying oxygen to the brain similar



to hemoglobin in the blood. These perfluorocarbons are temperature controlled and enter the patient's circulation at temperatures between 0 and 105 degrees F.

Antioxidants comprise from about 0.00 to 50.00 percent by volume of this brain resuscitation solution. Preferably, the brain resuscitation solution includes 0.001 to 30.00 percent by volume of antioxidants. These antioxidants are the preferred free radical scavengers. Once introduced into the brain at step 130, these Antioxidants compete with brain tissue proteins as binding sites for the free radicals, mainly ionic O_2 . Since a large portion of the free radicals complex with antioxidants, a substantial amount of free radical damage is prevented since these same free radicals do not bind and form complexes with proteins in the brain and associated neurologic tissues. The preferred antioxidants include Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, Cystine, Cysteine, BHT, BHA, Hydergine and the like.

Lazaroids, as experimental drug class being developed by the Upjohn Co. of Kalamazoo, Michigan, comprise about 0.00 to 30.00 percent by volume of the brain resuscitation solution. Preferably, Lazaroids comprise .001 to 20.00 percent by volume of the brain resuscitation solution. These Lazaroids are the preferred agents for protecting and reversing anoxic brain injury for up to forty-five minutes of anoxia, as shown in animal studies. These Lazaroids as well as nutrients, are introduced to the brain at step 132 in the brain resuscitation solution. Lazaroids are also free radical scavengers which fall under two major root moieties: pregnanes, ranging in molecular weight from roughly 580-720 and benzopyrans, ranging in molecular weight from 425-905.

The brain resuscitation solution may include up to 50 percent by volume of components which act as carrier vehicles and diluents for the antioxidants,



barbiturates, perfluorocarbons and Lazaroids.

Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) is the preferred carrier as it aids the above agents in traversing brain cell membranes. Additionally, the brain resuscitation

5 solution may contain physiologic buffers to maintain pH.

Nutrients are also provided in this solution, up to 30 percent by volume. Glucose is one nutrient which is preferred.

Finally, the solution may contain up to 10
10 percent by volume of heparin or other suitable anti-blood coagulating agents to stop blood clotting which may occur due to lack of blood flow during the resuscitation attempt as a side effect of arterial system blockage and fluid backflow from the balloon
15 tipped catheter.

Once this method has been performed and the brain resuscitation fluid has been properly administered, continuing efforts to restart the heart and restore the circulation at step 134 should be made.

20 Alternately, a method exists for use in emergency situations. In these situations, preoxygenated fluid may be directly injected into the patient's circulatory system. This is done by removing the reservoir canister from the brain resuscitation
25 device and attaching it to a catheter line and then catheterizing the patient's circulatory system, or placing fluid from the reservoir canister into a syringe and injecting the patient.

The invention additionally discloses a method
30 for preserving organs such as the heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and liver whereby they remain viable and suitable for harvesting and subsequent transplantation. The method involves establishing an artificial circulation through the organ to be harvested, as the
35 patient is catheterized at an injection point. This injection point typically includes a major blood or lymph vessel, the organ itself, or tissues surrounding



the organ. If a lymph vessel is catheterized, it should be in close proximity to the organ to be harvested. Preferably, arteries proximate to the organ are catheterized, as they can be found easily and provide a
5 direct route to the organ.

Balloon-type catheters (similar or identical to those disclosed above) with one-way balloon valves at distal point are preferred. Once inserted into the vessels of the circulatory system, the balloons inflate,
10 limiting any reverse blood flow and organ resuscitation fluid solution flow away from the organ to be harvested.

The organ preservation solution may be delivered to the injection point through catheters from the reservoir in the organ preservation devices. Once
15 the devices are activated, temperature controlled (chilled) oxygenated organ preservation solution is delivered to the organ. This organ preservation solution is a mixture of various components suitable for keeping the organ viable. Specifically, the organ
20 preservation solution is a fluid mixture containing oxygen-carrying agents, antioxidants, Lazaroids, carrier vehicles, nutrients and other chemicals. It is similar to that disclosed above for brain resuscitation except that barbiturates, which may be included, are not
25 required as there is not a great need to induce a coma in a brain-dead patient or cadaver.

Initially the solution is temperature-controlled and delivered to the organ after having been chilled to approximately 40°F. At this temperature, the
30 degenerative metabolism of the organ is slowed as the subsequent free radical production (O_2) decreases. This temperature-controlling (cooling) step may alone allow up to an additional four hours of organ viability. Additional cooling is achieved by applying external
35 cooling means to portions of the patient or cadaver proximate to the organ to be harvested. The cooling



means include wraps containing ice cubes, synthetic cooling packets and the like.

Oxygen carrying agents comprise about 0.000 to 99.900 percent by volume of this organ preservation solution. The preferred organ preservation solution includes 10.000 to 99.000 percent by volume of oxygen carrying agents. Perfluorocarbons are the preferred oxygen carrying agents, as they have an extremely high oxygen capacity. When delivered to the organ, in this oxidation step, these perfluorocarbons are supersaturated with oxygen, having been oxygenated in the fluid reservoir. These perfluorocarbons act as a blood substitute, carrying oxygen to the organ similar to hemoglobin in the blood. These perfluorocarbons are temperature controlled and enter the patient's circulation at temperatures between 0 and 105 degrees F.

Antioxidants comprise from about 0.000 to 50.000 percent by volume of this organ preservation solution. Preferably, the organ preservation solution includes .001 to 30.000 percent by volume of antioxidants. These antioxidants are the preferred free radical scavengers. Once introduced into the organ, these Antioxidants compete with organ tissue proteins as binding sites for the free radicals, mainly ionic O_2 . Since a large portion of the free radicals complex with antioxidants, a substantial amount of free radical damage is prevented since these same free radicals do not bind and form complexes with proteins in the tissues forming the organ. The preferred antioxidants include Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, Cystine, Cysteine, BHT, BHA, Hydergine and the like.

Lazaroids, an experimental drug class being developed by the Upjohn Co. of Kalamazoo, Michigan, comprise about 0.000 to 30.000 percent by volume of the organ preservation solution. Preferably, Lazaroids comprise 0.001 to 20.000 percent by volume of the organ preservation solution. These Lazaroids are the



preferred agents for protecting and reversing anoxic injury for up to forty-five minutes of anoxia, as shown in animal studies. These Lazaroids as well as nutrients, are introduced to the organ as part of preserving the organ. Lazaroids are also free radical scavengers which fall under two major root moieties: pregnanes, ranging in molecular weight from roughly 580-720 and benzopyrans, ranging in molecular weight from 425-905.

10 The organ preservation solution may include up to 50.000 percent by volume of components which act as carrier vehicles and diluents for the antioxidants, perfluorocarbons and Lazaroids. Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) is the preferred carrier as it aids the above
15 agents in traversing tissue cell membranes. Additionally, the organ preservation solution may contain physiologic buffers to maintain pH.

Nutrients are also provided in this solution, up to 30.000 percent by volume. Glucose is one nutrient
20 which is preferred.

The solution may also include up to 20.000 percent by volume heavy metal scavengers or chelating agents. These heavy metal scavengers or chelating agents would also serve to inhibit free radical damage.
25 Desferoxamine is one preferred heavy metal chelator.

Cytoprotective agents such as Calcium Channel Blockers (Ca^{++}) may also be present in this organ resuscitation solution in amounts up to 10.000 percent by volume. These cytoprotective agents, inhibit cell
30 damage by stabilizing the cell membrane.

Additional metabolic mediators such as MK-801 and glutamate, aspartate or N-methyl-d-aspartate (NMDA) antagonists may also be in the solution up to 10.000 percent by volume.

35 Finally, the solution may contain up to 10.000 percent by volume of heparin or other suitable anti-blood coagulating agents to stop blood clotting which



may occur due to lack of blood flow during the trauma,
or due to the fact the patient is dead.

Once this method has been performed and the
organ preservation solution has been properly
5 administered, organ harvesting may begin.

From the foregoing description, it is clear
that those skilled in the art could make changes in the
described embodiments and methods of the invention
without departing from the broad inventive concepts
10 thereof. It is understood, therefore, that this
invention is not limited to the particular embodiment
disclosed, but it is intended to cover any modifications
which are within the spirit and scope of the claims.



**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of preserving organs such that said organs remain viable for harvesting and subsequent transplant, comprising:

5 a. establishing an artificial circulation in an organ of a patient or cadaver by catheterizing said patient or cadaver at an injection point;

b. oxygenating the organ by introducing oxygen carrying agents through said catheter;

10 c. lowering the organ's temperature by introducing cooled fluid through said catheter, said cooled fluid being at a temperature below body temperature;

d. inhibiting free radical damage by
15 introducing free radical scavengers through said catheter;
whereby the metabolic rate of said organ is slowed and said organ remains viable.

20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further involves the step of introducing tissue-protecting agents and damage-reversing agents through said catheter.

25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said injection point is at least one blood vessel, one lymph vessel, said organ or the tissue surrounding said organ.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said blood
30 vessel is at least one artery or vein.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said oxygen carrying agents include perfluorocarbons.

35 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said fluid is cooled to approximately 40 degrees Fahrenheit.





7. The method of claim 1, wherein said free radical scavengers include antioxidants.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said
5 antioxidants comprise: Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, Cystine, Cysteine, BHT, BHA and Hydergine.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein said protecting
10 and reversing agents include Lazaroids.

10. A method of preserving organs comprising:
a. providing a solution including
barbiturates, free radical scavengers and oxygen
15 carrying agents;
b. oxygenating said solution;
c. cooling said solution to a temperature substantially below body temperature;
d. introducing said solution into a patient
20 at an injection point within said patient's body;
whereby metabolic rates of the tissues in said organ are slowed, enabling a viable organ to be harvested for transplantation.

25 11. The method of claim 10, wherein injection step further includes providing said solution with tissue protecting agents and tissue damage reversing agents.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said oxygen
30 carrying agents include perfluorocarbons.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein injection point is at least one blood vessel whereby said injection point is at least one blood vessel whereby said solution
35 uses the circulatory system in moving to said organ.





14. The method of claim 10, wherein said injection point is at least one lymph vessel said organ, or the tissue surrounding the organ.

5 15. The method of claim 10, wherein said free radicals scavengers include the antioxidants: Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, Cystine, Cysteine, BHT, BHA, and Hydergine.

10 16. The method of claim 10, wherein said solution is cooled to approximately 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

15 17. The method of claim 10, wherein said tissue protecting agents and said tissue damage reversing agents include Lazaroids.

18. A method of treating anoxic and/or ischemic brain and associated nervous tissue injury comprising:

- a. providing a solution including
- 20 barbiturates, free radical scavengers and oxygen carrying agents in a first and second amount;
- b. introducing said first amount of said solution in an amount effective to prevent an oxidative burst of free radicals into a patient at an injection
- 25 point within said patient's body;
- c. oxygenating said second amount of said solution;
- d. cooling said second amount of said solution to a temperature substantially below body
- 30 temperature;
- e. introducing said second amount of said solution into said patient at said injection point within said patient's body;
- whereby metabolic rates of said nervous tissues are
- 35 slowed during treatment.

