

The Lobotomist

1. How were the mentally ill treated prior to the use of the lobotomy and drug therapies? How did people react to seeing the treatment of the mentally ill in State Hospitals? What did State Hospitals look like on the outside and the inside?
2. What was Dr. Freeman's motivation to pioneer and refine the procedure of the lobotomy?
3. What type of treatments were used prior to lobotomies and drug therapies? What effect did they have on the people that received them?
4. Who influenced Dr. Freeman in pioneering the lobotomy? How did Dr. Freeman's procedure progress over time? How did most people in the medical community react to Dr. Freeman's procedures?
5. What part of the brain was originally lesioned? What part of the brain is ultimately damaged in a lobotomy? What effects did lobotomies have on people? Have did they behave and conduct themselves after their lobotomies?
6. How many lobotomies did Dr. Freeman perform? What were some of the social factors that drove Dr. Freeman? Who were the patients that were the easiest for Dr. Freeman to perform his procedures on and why were they chosen?
7. What developments led to the cessation of lobotomies as a treatment for mental illness? What arguments did Dr. Freeman make against those who brought up psychotherapy as treatment.
8. Dr. Walter Freeman had been described as both a savior and a monster. Explain the rational for both of these perceptions. Would you say that Dr. Freeman was an ethical practioner?