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Mod: 3/4

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Our project focused on the heart and its functions. We know that the human heart is an organ that pumps blood throughout the body using the circulatory system. It is about the size of a large fist, weighing between 9 and 12 ounces. It has four chambers (the atria) and two lower ones (the ventricles). The heart circulates the blood through two pathways: the pulmonary circuit and the systemic circuit.

Many people are not completely aware of everything the heart does and why it is so important to take care of it. We displayed that importance by making a short film of a young girl who has heart problems. She doesn't take her issue seriously and is afraid of visiting a doctor. In the end she discovers that she is in need of a heart transplant, however they are not that simple to receive.

Coronary artery disease occurs when a substance called plaque builds up in the arteries that supply blood to the heart (called coronary arteries). Plaque is made up of cholesterol deposits, which can accumulate in your arteries. When this happens, your arteries can narrow over time. This process is called atherosclerosis. When plaques build up, they narrow your coronary arteries, decreasing blood flow to your heart. A complete blockage can cause a heart attack.

Chest pain or discomfort (angina) is the most common symptom. You feel this pain when the heart is not getting enough blood or oxygen. How bad the pain is varies from person to person. Women are more likely to have symptoms other than chest pain, such as fatigue, shortness of breath, and weakness of the body. Treatment depends on your symptoms and how severe the disease is. Your doctor may give you one or more medicines to treat heart disease, blood pressure, diabetes, or high cholesterol.

So what happens when you need a heart transplant? Well, unfortunately, the first thing that happens is that you go on the waiting list for a donor. Hearts are in high demand especially in America. America is the country with the most heart transplants in the world. The way a donor is matched is mostly by region. The first available hearts usually go to the sickest patients. Studies show that in America, white males over the age of 65 are in the highest demand for heart transplants. The group with the lowest demands is Asian females.

If you are fortunate enough to receive a heart in time, you have to undergo heart surgery. This is the process of the removal of the defective heart, & the insertion of the new heart transplant. After the heart is transplanted, there are certain medicines that are given to the patient. These medications are used to stop the immune system from rejecting the heart & also to protect the body from any viruses since the immune system is weakened.