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NEUROSURGICAL IMAGE

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Analyzing of dark past and bright present of neurosurgical history with a picture of musicians

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ABSTRACT

Aim: Currently, neurosurgery has gone through moments of great renewal, however, in the first half of the 20th century, unwanted outcome after surgical approach had occurred. The aim of this historical overview of a picture of the musicians is to show the development of Neurosurgery in 20 century.

Methods: History of neurosurgery in the first half of the 20th century and the current was investigated through PubMed. A brief tour of some of the major landmarks of contemporary neurosurgery was also made.

Results: A musician picture was found which taken in 1928. Two of the musicians suffered neurosurgical disorder, and operated in 1937, both immediately died without gaining conscious at early postoperative period.

Conclusion: We described the role of neurosurgery in the lives of two famous musicians, George Gershwin and Maurice Ravel. A picture taken 1928, shows the developing of Neurosurgery from first half of 20th century to current.

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History; neurosurgery; maurice ravel; george gershwin

Neurosurgical image

This photograph was taken in 1928 (Figure 1). It came to our attention as we were researching an article on musician's who had craniotomies.[1] It shows a scene from the fifty-third Birthday party of Maurice Ravel on March 7, 1928. The place could be in Paris. Both George Gershwin,[1] and Maurice Ravel[2] died after craniotomies in 1937. They were first two fatal cases of neurosurgical treatment in music history. George Gershwin died on July 11, 1937. Maurice Ravel died on December 28, 1937.

George Gershwin's (1898–1937) H First symptoms of his cerebral tumor appeared in 1934.[1] On July 9 1937 he collapsed and fell into a coma. First, Harvey Cushing was contacted by phone.[1] Cushing declined the case because he had retired.[1]



Figure 1. Birthday party honoring Maurice Ravel, Paris, March 8, 1928. From left: Oscar Fried, conductor; Eva Gauthier, singer; Ravel at piano; Manoah Leide-Tedesco, composer-conductor; and composer George Gershwin standing right.

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He recommended Walter Dandy (1886–1946), however, Dandy was vacationing on a yacht of the governor of Maryland, which was somewhere on the Chesapeake Bay at the time.[1] Friends of Gershwin called a White House aid. On July 10, he was operated by neurosurgeons Dr. Carl Rand, Dr. Eugene Ziskind, and Dr. Howard Nafziger. The tumor was a glioblastoma and was deemed irresectable. Dandy arrived in the hospital after the end of the operation.[1] Gershwin never recovered consciousness following the operation and died on July 11, 1937.

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937) first developed mild symptoms of a neurologic or psychosomatic disease was seen in 1929.[2] Ravels health status and neurological condition became worse after a car accident in October 1932.[2] On December 19, 1937, the founder of French neurosurgery, Clovis Vincent, performed a right side craniotomy on Ravel, because of the tentative diagnosis of a brain tumor. His symptoms, such as[3] aphasia and writing difficulties indicated a left hemispheric process. Probably, a wrong side craniotomy was performedormed.[3]

Origin of the picture

The discussed picture was obtained from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository, (web site: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ravel_Gershwin_Leide-Tedesco002.jpg. The picture had been scanned from original photo of Manoah Leide-Tedesco. Produced at 26 April 2011. The Photographer is unknown. Author; Wide World Photos 1928.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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