

October 25, 1968

Ward Griffen, MD.  
Professor of Surgery  
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Lexington, Kentucky 40506

Dear Wardo:

Both Mary and I were sorry we missed you in Atlantic City. You did not miss very much; the meetings were just fair.

At a recent panel discussion, in which I participated with Heimlich at Washington, I presented two cases of esophageal stricture in Epidermolysis Bullosa dystroph in two children, in whom I replaced the whole esophagus with a colonic graft (upper anastomosis in the neck). Both children, who were terribly debilitated, have a very good result. Heimlich talked on his nice modification of the Jeau operation. He made a statement to me, that the small bowel is more sensitive to acid-peptic activity to lower down you go, the colon being, therefore, more sensitive than the ileum, the ileum more than the jejunum. This surprised me, as I always believed exactly the opposite. What were your results experimentally and clinically? Is it true that ileal and colonic interposition of the lower esophagus is out? I have little long-term experience with it.

I had fun finishing a movie on coronary artery replacement with a saphenous graft; I have now a good series of patients with direct coronary construction.

When are you going to stop by?

Love to your family from all of us,

*elg*

Karel B. Absolon, MD.

KBA:elg