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How patients, family and public seek concord with clinical trials

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Synchronizing Self with Science: How Patients, Family and Public Seek Concord with Clinical Trials

In 2010 a biomedical research project called TRANSEURO started. The aim was to initiate clinical trials for transplantation with dopamine-producing neuro cells to patients with Parkinson's disease.

Here the aim is to investigate how the still upcoming clinical trials, involving brain surgery, are perceived and waited for among patients, relatives and public.

What do people think about participating in clinical trials? What is needed for accepting one's own or (close) others' participation in trials? Does the material of the transplant have any significance in itself? What kinds of return are expected when people consider possible clinical participation?

The study is based on six focus groups with 35 participants, representing patients, family and public.

Distinguishing the tactical practice of synchronization is a tentative result of the study. When individuals accept participation in clinical trials they position themselves as temporal beings through a form of personal synchronization with the time frames of the clinical research. In the case of Parkinson's disease this cultural synchronization is intermixed with ideas about the fetus as access to experiment and the embodied self as a target for different bodily effects.

/ Markus Idvall

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