

VERSIONS

Arabic, English, Spanish
French: 36 x 30 min.

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TeleMed

Huge progress has been made in medical practice over recent decades. For example, the discovery of fiber optics has made it possible to take a close look at the stomach or intestine and diagnose problem zones. Computer tomography creates three-dimensional images without using harmful X-rays. Intensive-care medicine, transplantation medicine and genetic engineering are now making it possible to tackle diseases previously regarded as incurable. But there is still much uncharted scientific territory, for example with regard to diseases that have only emerged with our civilization.

02 Investment in Immunity

It's always on duty, and when it doesn't perform properly, we know about it: our immune system. But how does it work? What factors might weaken it? And how can we support it in its difficult task?

03 Waiting for the Epidemic

In the wake of "Mad Cow Disease" or BSE the early 1990s saw the arrival of a new and mysterious illness in human beings, so-called "new variant" Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease.

04 Viruses in the Brain

In the past, depression was thought to be a purely psychological disorder. But some researchers now believe it may sometimes be caused by a virus which produces similar symptoms in horses.

05 Schizophrenia

Research into schizophrenia is inseparably linked with research into one of the great mysteries that modern science has yet to unravel: the workings of the human brain.

06 Sick in spite of Antibiotics

Bacteria can make themselves invulnerable to antibiotics, a development which in principle started as soon as the first antibiotic was used. But in recent years, the trend has accelerated to threatening proportions.

07 Insensitive to Pain But Awake

Artificially induced sleep – like natural sleep – is still largely unexplored territory. How is consciousness controlled under anaesthetic? What are the effects of different anaesthetics?

08 Bacteria and Heart Attacks

Chlamydiae are actually known as "pulmonary" bacteria but could they also be responsible for heart attacks? Now, scientists have shown there is a connection – although it is still too early to define it precisely.

09 Under the Skin

A journey through the body. Just a few years ago, this would have been the stuff of science fiction. But today, it's almost routine.

10 The Search for Vaccines

Resistant influenza viruses can become as deadly a danger as the modern epidemic AIDS. For that reason scientists are continually looking to develop new vaccines to prevent familiar old diseases like TB and influenza and to win through against still unconquered adversaries.

11 The Search for Drugs

This film looks at the search for drugs, the difficulties researchers face and helpful new perceptions and options for the future.

12 How We Are Controlled by Our Brain

The brain – an organ which continually performs amazing feats, the seat of the soul, and the controller of our thoughts and actions. Brain research has come up with diagnostic techniques in recent years which provide answers to these questions – some of them amazing.



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13 Manipulating the Brain

Brain research in recent years has made numerous revolutionary discoveries regarding the functioning of the human brain. Some researchers are now able to say important things about someone's talents and habits.

14 Organs Made to Order

Organs made to order promise a better quality of life for many persons now seriously ill. Diabetic ulcers, for example, resist all forms of conventional treatment but with artificially grown skin, they heal. And for patients who have had major bowel surgery, tissue engineering – in this case bowel tissue grown from patient cells – could mean a new lease of life.

15 Radiation Therapy – The Underrated Weapon Against Cancer

In the past using radiation therapy to treat malignant tumours also meant destroying much of the surrounding tissue. Patients suffered serious side effects. But today a combination of precise diagnosis, sophisticated control technology, and high radiation doses enables tumours to be destroyed with pinpoint accuracy and minimal effect on surrounding tissue.

16 Influenza – The Underestimated Killer

Influenza is one of the scourges of mankind, a disease responsible for widespread loss of life. To find ways of combating it, modern research is studying the molecular constituents of the bug at its root – because one of the things that makes the fight against flu so difficult is that the retrovirus keeps mutating.

18 Bitter Pills – Human Guinea-Pigs

At least 20,000 men and women in Germany volunteer to take medicine for money in trials designed to check the efficacy or possible side-effects of new drugs. How are those trials conducted? We join test subjects in a realm of medicine which still has an aura of speculation and spectacle.

19 Brain Prostheses – Microchips in Human Medicine

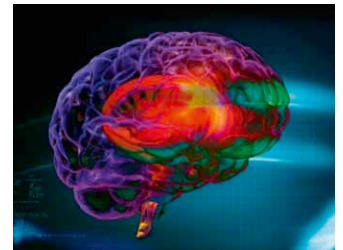
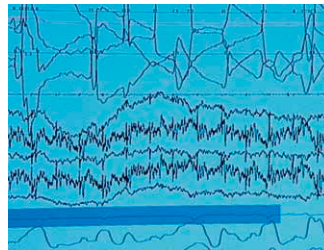
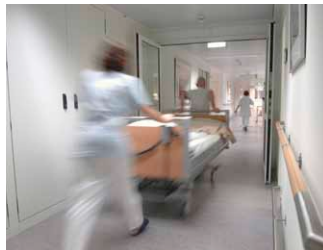
This film shows that the brain is no longer a taboo zone for the use of prostheses. Microchips are an effective tool for bridging nervous system defects. One day, paraplegics will regain the power of movement through thought, helped by cerebral implants which pick up signals from the brain and transmit them to arms and legs – in much the same way as mini-cameras will be able to send images to a retinal chip and thus restore sight to the blind.

20 Genetic Detectives at Work – Identifying the Roots of Predisposition

Deciphering the human genetic code is one of the greatest challenges of modern biology. Identifying the roots of predisposition in human DNA is seen as a way of helping doctors understand the role genetics plays in hereditary disease and thus enabling them to help the people affected.

21 Septicaemia – A Life-Threatening Condition

Next to heart disease and cancer, septicaemia is one of the most deadly scourges of mankind. Yet up to now it has been underestimated not only by the general public but also by many doctors. Bacteria, viruses, or fungi enter the bloodstream, multiply rapidly, and spread their toxins throughout the circulatory system. The immune system runs amok, and even the most powerful antibiotics are unable to get the body's deadly over-reaction under control. This film accompanies researchers and physicians in their daily battle against septicaemia. It also provides information on the first drug world-wide that is effective against this life-threatening condition. Its development means that at least one in five victims of septicaemia can now be saved.



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22 Cartilage, Bone, & Co

Today bio-engineers are able to cultivate more and more spare parts for the human body: skin for treating burns, cartilage for worn knee joints, arteries for better blood flow. Bio-engineering is getting ever closer to the medical dream of replacing each and every organ.

24 The Fight Against Hereditary Disease

Banned in some countries, pre-implantation diagnosis (PID) is one of a range of genetic tests which have long been medically possible but cannot be applied because of ethical considerations. They would enable doctors to determine a predisposition towards cancer, heart disease, and many other disorders. But what consequences might this involve? This film looks at the arguments for and against genetic testing and presents actual scenarios that have caused quite a stir.

25 Hope for the Seriously Ill?

Justin Will suffers from a serious hereditary disease that affects the nervous system. Because he lacks a single protein, a vital substance known as myelin is being destroyed. In the case of eleven-year-old Markus Förstner, the disease was discovered too late. Parts of his brain have been irreparably destroyed. Embryonic stem cells could provide help, but in many countries research based on stem cells is extremely controversial. This film focuses on young people who are suffering from serious diseases and still have high hopes of being cured.

26 Weapons Against Major Epidemics

Cancer cells kept in check by designer drugs: a dream, perhaps? Not so. Drugs already exist that were developed on a computer and have already saved the lives of many people who were critically ill. This film also highlights the new forms of treatment being applied in the case of AIDS and tuberculosis. With the help of genome research it is hoped that the battle against these killer diseases can finally be won.

27 Healing Power from the Desert – Secrets of the Bushmen

Devil's claw is regarded as the most effective remedy against arthritis. In the struggle for survival, the Hoodia cactus from the Kalahari is taken as an appetite inhibitor. Is the knowledge of the inhabitants of the desert being exploited?

28 Healing Power from the Desert – Secrets of the Xhosa

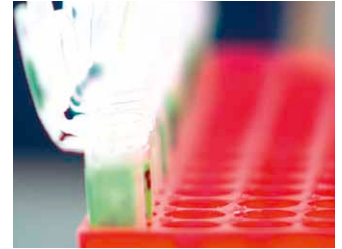
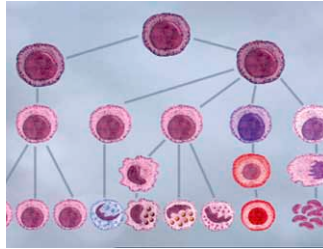
The anti-viral and bacterial properties of *sutherlandia frutescens*, a South African shrub, bolster the immune system, stimulate the metabolism, and are used to combat secondary diseases associated with AIDS.

29 The Mice Palace – Germany's State-of-the-Art Animal Laboratory

In the West animal experiment facilities geared towards medical research are booming. Even though animal protection laws have become more stringent, there has been an increase in particular in the use of mice. One reason for this is the fact that the human genome differs from that of mice by just 2.5 per cent. Consequently, scientists are embarking on bolder and bolder experiments which are giving rise to growing criticism from within their own ranks.

30 Of Genes, Mice and Humans – A Research Project with Twins

Gene therapy against AIDS? Can the positive results achieved in test-tubes be applied to animals and humans? This film provides a rare look behind the scenes of medical gene technology. It is a documentary about everyday life for researchers with all its hopes, fears, and dependencies.



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- 31 Why Can't I Sleep? – The Possibilities and Limits of Modern Medicine**
Disturbed sleep can have devastating consequences for our health. But how much do doctors and researchers know about insomnia? To what extent can they help chronic in-somniacs? Are tablets a solution? This film presents the possibilities offered by modern medicine, but also shows its limits.
- 32 Healing with Herbs and Needles – Traditional Chinese Medicine in Taiwan**
The concept behind traditional Chinese medicine is totally different from the thinking associated with western medicine. It centres on the harmonious flow of energy in the body. Disease occurs through blockages which doctors try to clear with the help of needles and herbs, massage and cupping. In Taichong there is a hospital that combines traditional Chinese medicine with western methods.
- 33 Bloodsucking and Poisonous Creatures Wanted!**
For centuries man saw ticks, bugs, vampire bats and other “nasty” creatures as threats to his health and did his level best to eradicate them. But now he is seeking their help in the attempt to conquer disease. The pharmaceutical industry is even focusing on the predatory cone snail from the depths of the ocean. In high-tech laboratories scientists are trying to uncover Nature's secrets. And bloodsucking and poisonous creatures are very much in demand.
- 34 On the Trail of the Fountain of Youth – The Secret of the Genes**
Scientists worldwide have the ambitious goal to answer one of the last remaining questions of mankind: How can you age and stay young at the same time? Our genes determine the process of aging. People are all born with different genetic design and it is left to individuals to influence their body's aging process with the way they eat and care for themselves. A pill that stops the aging process hasn't been developed yet, so it's left to everyone to do his or her part to make the most of their genetic material and to live a happier and longer life.
- 35 On the Trail of the Fountain of Youth – Rays of Hope for the Brain**
The human brain is probably the most complex structure in the known universe. Not only is it responsible for movements and other bodily functions, but it is host to our thoughts and feelings, our personality. The brain is no exception to the aging process. To most people that is a scary thought. Will the weakening of our senses go hand in hand with a decay of our brain? Researchers are trying to understand the aging process of the human brain.
- 36 On the Trail of the Fountain of Youth – The Beauty and Burden of Hormones**
Hormones are vital to bodily functions and responsible for the sensation of love. Estrogen and Testosterone make us woman or man, trigger lust and affect self-esteem as well as self-confidence. The older you become the less sex hormones the body produces. For women this happens rapidly at a certain age. It is drawn out over a longer period of time with men. In either case it is frustrating once the source of our sex drive stops. Will modern medicine be able to come up with a satisfying solution to the problem?
- 37 Attacking the Root of the Problem – Fighting Skin Cancer and Brain Tumors with New Methods**
Being diagnosed with cancer no longer means certain imminent death. New forms of therapy and medication may either cure patients completely or at least allow them to lead a relatively normal life with the disease. A Regensburg based company is working on a new cure: TGF-beta-proteins envelop a tumor protectively. If one manages to inhibit the production of TGF-beta-proteins, the tumor's protective shield collapses allowing the body's immune system to attack the cancer cells.



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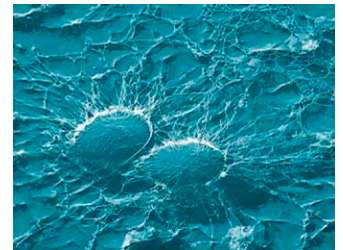
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- 38** **Directly at the Heart – Microbubbles Transport Medication Where it is Needed the Most**
Tiny gas-filled bubbles, injected into the bloodstream, transport medication directly to specific areas of the body. Medical and pharmaceutical researchers pin great hopes on this method and whoever establishes it first will earn fame and the fortunes of numerous applications ranging from genetic therapy for heart disease to fighting tumor cells.
- 39** **The Prometheus Organ – Liver Cell Research**
Liver patients at Regensburg University Clinic are pinning their hopes on a new therapy. Scientists at the clinic are trying to develop a way to repair the organ with living cells rather than to replace it with a transplant. Their research aims at understanding the factors that allow for a complete regeneration of the organ. Once unhealthy liver cells can be repaired and grown outside the patient's body they can be put back into the organ and thus lead to complete recovery. In the light of a lack of donor organs this would mean a paradigm shift in liver therapy.
- 40** **Hospital Death**
The spread of the so-called super-bacteria through hospitals around the world is worrying. "Super bugs" such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA, which causes infected wounds, lung infections and sepsis, have raised great concern because of their resistance to conventional antibiotics.
- 41** **Stem Cell Research in the Fight against Cancer**
Recent research seems to indicate that cancer originates in stem cells that trigger tumour growth and cannot be killed off by chemotherapy. The results of the latest studies could provide the basis for a new therapy in which antibodies specifically target the cancer stem cells and destroy them permanently.
- 42** **Nanoparticles and Bioweapons against Cancer**
Scientists hope to come up with a new treatment for prostate cancer with the help of an immune therapy based on a toxic metabolic product of a particular kind of bacteria. Tiny nanoparticles convey the anti-cancer therapeutics in this innovative form of locally applied chemotherapy.
- 43** **Fungi and Larvae – Nature's Antibiotics**
Researchers are increasingly turning their eye to nature's antibiotic reserves, as widening immunity to conventional antibiotics means a reduction in efficacy. Pathogens can't become resistant to these alternative natural antibiotics, which employ a different and unique mechanism to inhibit their growth.
- 44** **From Plant to Pill – Hops as a Medicine**
Hops have been used for centuries in manufacturing pharmaceuticals. In addition to being known for the effective treatment of anxiety, hops have been shown to possess an astounding therapeutic potential for the future treatment of cancer, diabetes, heart problems and AIDS.
- 45** **Gene Genie**
As genetic tests become cheaper and easier to carry out, the pressure to find out everything possible about oneself can be overwhelming. This film looks at people who have already carried out genetic tests – and are living with the consequences.
- 46** **The Addiction Phenomenon**
Medical experts and scientists are in agreement that addiction – be it drug-related or behavioural – is a "real" illness, which is linked to detectable changes in the brain. This film looks at the latest findings of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Addiction Research at the University of Würzburg.



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47 The Placebo Effect

When a sick person feels better after being given medication containing no active drugs whatsoever, this is known as the placebo effect. Although scientists have long been familiar with this effect, they have only just begun to try to explain it. Now they have evidence linking the placebo effect to parts of the cerebral cortex thought to be involved in developing expectations for the future.

48 Reducing the Risk of Heart Attack HD

Heart attack is the number one cause of death in many industrialized nations. For a long while, treatment concentrated on the emergency response. But recently, research has focused more on prevention and possible genetic causes. Work is also being done on using stem cell therapy for heart disease.

49 Medical Advancement Through Space Travel

Space travel programs generate a huge amount of scientific research. Many space-related discoveries and inventions are now part of our daily lives. The relatively new science of space medicine utilizes insights from space travel to further the advancement of clinical diagnostics and the treatment of diseases.

50 The Fight Against Breast Cancer

It is estimated that 350,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year in Europe alone. Exact numbers are not available. Nor is there much information on the impact of advances in the prevention, therapy and aftercare of breast cancer. One thing is clear though – survival rates have definitely improved.

51 Deafness: A Thing of the Past?

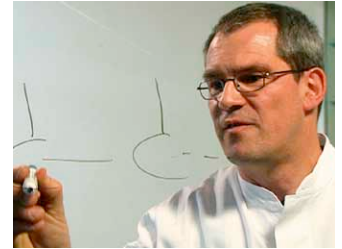
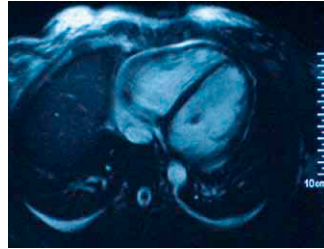
Could deafness and hearing loss soon be an affliction that no one suffers from anymore? Doctors and scientists believe this to be a realistic vision. They have developed what is apparently a miracle cure for deafness – the cochlea implant. But this technical innovation has been rejected by some deaf people, who do not view their condition as an illness that needs to be cured.

52 Bacteriophages – An Alternative to Antibiotics? HD

During the Cold War the Soviet Union was cut off from western advances in antibiotics research and therapy. But it developed its own tradition of using bacteriophages to tackle infections. Bacteriophages are viruses that destroy bacteria. Some are believed to do so without harming the patient. The main center for work on bacteriophages is in present-day Georgia. While bacteriophage therapy is used there, it is not permitted in many countries because its effectiveness has not been adequately demonstrated.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY MEDICINE

DOCUMENTARY
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53 Fat: Friend or Foe?

For decades now, fatty foods have been named and shamed as contributors to a number of diseases and health afflictions such as cancer, heart attack, diabetes and obesity. But people have not become healthier or leaner by eating hi-carb, low-fat foods. There are now widespread doubts as to the merits of such a diet.

54 Tackling Cancer with Heavy Ions

Some tumors cannot be completely removed by surgery. Affected patients are now pinning their hopes on a newly developed heavy-ion accelerator. Using powerful magnetic fields, the device charges particles into a beam that can destroy diseased tissue with the utmost precision.

55 Rehabilitation Robots – Regaining Mobility

Lokomat and Armin are the names of two robots developed by scientists in Switzerland. They have been created to help people whose mobility has been restricted through illness or injury back on their feet.

56 The Power of Protein – Can It Help Treat Cancer?

Scientists have discovered that patients with skin, liver or colon cancer have reduced levels of CYLD. It is a protein that inhibits the growth of tumors. But it will be some time before these findings can be applied to the development of any new cancer therapies.

57 Update on Aspirin **HD**

Aspirin is one of the best-known medications in the world. It is usually taken to alleviate pain. But recent research indicates that it may have significant other uses, for example in the prevention of colon cancer.

58 Women Get Sick Differently

When it comes to afflictions of the body and mind, women deal with them in a different way to men. Women also experience illness in different ways. These well-known facts are rarely considered by doctors, scientific research and the pharmaceuticals industry. There are however signs that this attitude is changing, albeit slowly, within the medical industry, which is dominated by men.

59 The Stone Age Approach – A New Take on Old Remedies **HD**

Scientists around the world are currently fascinated by a new perception of the human body. They are attempting to understand how our evolutionary history has influenced the kinds of diseases that affect our lives, and are developing treatments from knowledge of how people lived in the Stone Age.

For further information
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