

Dutch Dentures

The Survival Files — Case 2 — ESS = 166.7

Copyright 2007 Miles Edward Allen

On 15 December 2001, the international medical journal, *The Lancet*, published a report titled “Near-death experience in survivors of cardiac arrest: a prospective study in the Netherlands.” This study included 344 patients who were successfully resuscitated after cardiac arrest. Of the 62 patients who reported some sort of an experience, 15 claimed that they had left their body. This is 24 percent of those who had an experience of some sort, and 4.4 percent of the total patients resuscitated.

Those who claimed some sort of an NDE were interviewed soon after their experience and again 2 years and 8 years later. Of special interest is what the report terms “a surprising and unexpected finding” that the positive, life-changing effects of the NDEs, rather than fading with time, became more and more apparent as the years passed.

This is by far the largest study of its kind and it sheds a great deal of light on the NDE process. All those critics who have managed to ignore such veridical evidence as “Maria’s shoe” and have assumed that NDEs are hallucinations caused by a lack of oxygen or the administration of drugs need to take note of the chief investigator’s conclusion: “Our results show that medical factors cannot account for the occurrence of NDEs.”

Part of the *Lancet* report is the testimony of a coronary-care-unit nurse telling of a night when a comatose man was brought in by ambulance. During treatment, his mouth is opened to insert a breathing tube and it is discovered that he is wearing dentures. These are removed by the nurse reporting the incident and placed in a drawer of a crash cart. After about an hour of treatment the patient is transferred to the intensive care unit, still in the comatose condition in which he arrived.

The nurse does not see this patient for more than a week, then she meets him in the cardiac ward. In her own words (translated, of course, from the Dutch): “The moment he sees me, he says: ‘Oh, that nurse knows where my dentures are.’ I am very surprised. Then he elucidates: ‘Yes, you were there when I was brought into the hospital and you took my dentures out of my mouth and put them into that cart, it had all those bottles on it and there was this sliding drawer underneath and there you put my teeth.’ I was especially amazed because I remember this happening when the man was in deep coma and in the process of CPR.”

The nurse inquired further and the man told her that he had seen himself lying on the bed while the staff had performed CPR. He correctly described the room he had been in and the appearance of the staff members present. She concludes: “He is deeply impressed with his experience and says he is no longer afraid of death.”

Discussion

More details and an analysis of this case may be found on pages 21-25 of [The Survival Files](#).

ESS Score

The CS rating is “ee”, CS = 101.

The WR rating is “f”, WR = 65.

The IC rating is “q”, IC = 0.7.

Total ESS Score: $101 + 65 + .7 = 166.7$

END CASE 2

TheSurvivalFiles.com