

Nevada's first pancreas transplant

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EMBARGO: MONDAY MAY 3, 1993, 2:30 p.m. (Pacific Time)

A news conference will be held in Las Vegas at 2:30 p.m. today to brief the local news media on Nevada's first pancreas transplant, which was performed Saturday at University Medical Center in Las Vegas by a surgeon from the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

The 12-hour surgery, which also included a kidney transplant, was performed by transplant surgeon Dr. Scott Ames, assistant professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

The 23-year-old patient, Peggy Kolk, is listed in serious but stable condition in UMC's intensive care unit.

The pancreas is a large, elongated gland situated behind the stomach and produces the hormone insulin.

Kolk had been insulin dependent since the age of 13 months, and had been on dialysis for more than a year. As a result of the transplant, neither treatment is expected to be needed in the future by the patient.

Nevada's first kidney transplant was performed at University Medical Center on Christmas Day 1989 by a team lead by a transplant surgeon from the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

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Television representatives: KVBC-TV in Las Vegas is furnishing videotape to the pool at 2:30 p.m. Please contact Lynette Hein for information about possible satellite feed.