

Heimlich family feud on '20/20'

Truong, Quan. Cincinnati Enquirer [Cincinnati, Ohio] 09 June 2007: .2.

Abstract

In an interview, Heimlich's son, Peter Heimlich - a Cincinnati blogger - openly discussed his recent Internet campaign against his father's techniques, which include injecting AIDS patients with malaria to try to cure the disease.

Full Text

Medical debate and family tension surrounding a renowned local doctor spilled onto national television Friday night when ABC's "20/20" aired a special report on Dr. Henry Heimlich.

In an interview, Heimlich's son, Peter Heimlich - a Cincinnati blogger - openly discussed his recent Internet campaign against his father's techniques, which include injecting AIDS patients with malaria to try to cure the disease.

He called Heimlich's theories "a whole series of discredited experimental dubious medical theories which every medical expert says are either useless, dangerous or crackpot."

His father's Heimlich maneuver brought international fame for saving choking victims, but controversy dogged him over his later proposals: using the Heimlich maneuver on drowning victims and his malaria experiment.

Heimlich first pitched "malariotherapy" two decades ago, proposing that injecting AIDS patients with malaria may cure the disease. It has drawn criticism from medical authorities. In recent years, controversy mounted when Peter Heimlich turned into one of his biggest critics.

Heimlich's oldest son, Phil Heimlich - a former Cincinnati councilman and Hamilton County commissioner - also came forward Friday night on "20/20."

"If my father were here, he would talk about how much he loves my brother and he would talk about how painful it has been to have my brother do these things," Phil Heimlich said.

Peter Heimlich said he didn't have a choice.

"I don't think I am a bad son. I think if you care about somebody, you don't let them hurt themselves or hurt others," he said on the show.

Phil Heimlich said on the show that his younger brother had been obsessed with discrediting his father's medical theories, has stalked the doctor and distributed anonymous attacks on the Internet against his medical theories.

Henry Heimlich did not appear on the show.

CORRECTION

Cincinnati Enquirer [Cincinnati, Ohio] 12 June 2007: .1.

Full Text

Dr. Heimlich's son lives in Atlanta

Peter Heimlich lives in the Atlanta area and is writing a book about his father, Dr. Henry Heimlich. A story in Saturday's Local section incorrectly reported where he lives.

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