Vestigial Organs
From One Hundred to None
I would like to personally thank you for watching the Origins program. Origins was a special program, near to the heart of my late husband, Russell Bixler.

I trust that the information in this presentation will be helpful in your study of creation science.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Origins... you’re making the television production of this program possible.

Norma Bixler
Vestigial Organs

- Ernst Wiedersheim, 1895
  - List of 86 supposedly vestigial organs in the human body.
    - Eg) Appendix, pineal gland, coccyx ...
  
- Now none left!!
Vestigial Organs

- Seen as a major evidence of Evolution.

- Why would God make an organism with useless organs?
Tonsils and Adenoids

- The tonsils are groups of lymphatic tissue in the throat directly behind the tongue.
- Composed of three sets of lymphoid tissues.
Tonsils and Adenoids

- The assumption that the tonsils are vestigial a reason for the high number of tonsillectomies.

- Tonsils first suspected as cause of health problems when it was noticed tonsil size and respiratory infections were related.
Tonsils and Adenoids

- When at the peak of a severe cold, the tonsils swell.

- It was believed that the tonsils could cause health problems.
Tonsils and Adenoids

- In the 1930s over half of all children had their tonsils and adenoids removed.

- 1971: the frequency had dropped to only 14.8 per 1,000.

- The percentage continued to drop.
Vermiform Appendix

- The appendix is a small, narrow, worm-shaped tube.
- It is from 19 to almost 200 millimeters.
- Long regarded as a vestigial organ (still one of the most commonly cited examples in humans).
The Appendix’s Lymphatic Functions

- It has a role in the immunological system.
- Appendix lymphatic tissue is very similar to tonsils.
The Appendix’s Lymphatic Functions

- Helps protect the body against infection, especially during the early life.
- Lymphatic tissue in the appendix fights bacteria, like Peyer’s Patch and other lymph nodes.
The Appendix’s Lymphatic Functions

- Protects the almost sterile ileum part of the intestine from infection in the cecum region where the colon begins.

- Large intestine has billions of bacteria, and if they travel into the ileum, *E. Coli* or other infections could result.
The Thymus

- The thymus was long judged not only vestigial, but harmful, if it became enlarged.

- An oversized thymus was once routinely irradiated to shrink it.

- It was later found that instead of helping the patient, radiation treatment resulted in a higher level of infectious diseases.
Master Gland

- The thymus is master gland that regulates the immune system.
- The thymus shrinks in adults and is less important than during childhood.
- It was thus viewed as a vestigial organ.
- If the thymus is removed early in life the entire immune system fails to develop.
The Pineal Gland

- The pineal gland was long considered a “useless appendage left over from a lower form of life”.

- The pineal gland is an active member of the body's endocrine gland system, especially during certain growth stages.
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http://www.ch.ic.ac.uk/local/projects/s_thipayang/pituitarygland.jpg

Figure 1. The Pineal Gland Lies at the Exact Center of the Brain
The Pineal Gland

- Among melatonin’s many functions includes regulation of the estrus cycle.
- Melatonin levels decrease in women as they age, particularly in post-menopausal.
- The pineal gland may regulate the “biological clock.”
Nictitating Membrane

- A nictitating organ is a transparent membrane hinged at the inner side of the lower eyelid of many animals.

- Nictitate means to move rapidly back and forth over the eye.
Nictitating Membrane

- In humans, the plica serves as a support structure for the eye.
- And for lubrication.
- And to insure effective eyeball movement.
Problems With Vestigial Claims

- Difficult to prove lack of function.

- Vestigial argument is subjective:
  - Tim Berra:
    - The small bones found in whales and snakes are “surely of no value”

- No scientific evidence for these claims
When space probes revealed pictures of Saturn, scientists were amazed at the appearance of billions of particles, caught up in violent turbulence and instability in Saturn's rings.

For these rings to have existed for supposedly billions of years, these particles should be in extremely stable orbits.

If on the other hand, the rings are only several thousand years old, what we see in Saturn's rings are consistent with known physical laws.
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