## Hnf113012

Health newsfeed for Friday, November 30, 2012

**HEADLINE: LIBERATION PROCEDURE** 

ANCHOR LEAD: WHAT DO VEINS HAVE TO DO WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS? ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Is a problem with veins in the brain at the bottom of multiple sclerosis? An Italian surgeon thinks so, and has developed a procedure called 'liberation therapy,' to restore proper blood flow and treat the condition. Yet despite attempts by others to reproduce his results, the technique doesn't seem to help and may be dangerous, says Peter Calabresi, an MS expert at Johns Hopkins.

CALABRESI: The question remains is there enough preliminary evidence that this phenomenon exists to justify exposing people to the risk of doing an interventional vascular procedure? My personal feeling is that no, if 8 other groups can't even demonstrate that it exists in MS we shouldn't be going ahead and doing this procedure. If there were strong preliminary data even if it was an out of the box crazy theory I'd be more than excited to have the clinical trials done. I'm just worried that in this particular case the basic preliminary evidence to support that it exists is not there. :29

At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.