

VESTIGIAL ORGANS

The appendix is a small organ at the point where the small bowel and large bowel connect. For years it was thought that the appendix was an organ that no one used or needed. However, advancements in biology over the last 50 years has seen this perception change. Today the medical understanding is that there is a purpose in this small organ that is found at the juncture between the large and small it is now believed to be involved in being a 'bank' for the good bacteria within the bowel, enabling them to repopulate when needed. That which was once thought to no longer have a purpose, is now seen as having a very special purpose. You can live without the appendix, but it is best to have your appendix remain where it is, if possible.

However, this one example brings up the case of all vestigial organs and systems in the body. One of these is the tail-bone, long thought to be the example of an organ / system that is disappearing over the process of evolution. This organ / system is now seen as important, even integrated into all of the rest of the body when "balance issues" are considered.

Being there at the end of the spine, if you were to fall and hurt it, it will definitely inform you of your mis-steps and all subsequent actions. This small bone is especially important in women due to the changing structure of the women's hips during child birth.

If one likes top snow ski, or water ski, injures to the tail bone, the coccyx is very quickly noticed by both men and women. The point is, is that man has limited knowledge of some things and we must wait to see what nature really teaches us. Every year there are less and less recognized vestigial, un-needed and un-used organ in our bodies. That which was originally designed is still deeply involved in the whole body's workings, even if we do not yet understand how or why. It may just be, then, that we can honestly say that "design demands a designer". We do see design, after all is said and done, and we see more coming to be understood with each passing year.

The problem with evolution is that we want an answer to our observation now, -right now. We, and our whole society is just not very patient, really. Remember the age factors in our last post and the fact that we do have to wait for incredible amounts of time to see any changes what-so-ever, and that in very small increments !! All the mice may rejoice in the fact that no 'elephant trunked mice' are on the immediate horizon.

So as the list of vestigial organs shrink with the coming of new knowledge, so grows our belief in an answer those that persist. That list in 1900 was, appendix, the tail bone bone (coccyx), wisdom teeth, the shape of the nose, the curvature of the ear, the internal structure of the eye and its rods and cones, the reproductive system in human's, and basic musculature. There are 189 conceded vestigial organs on that list in 1900. Today there are less than half of that number.