Prefrontal Lobotomy [Molly Parks]

A lobotomy in which the white fibers that connect the thalamus to the prefrontal and frontal lobes of the brain are severed, performed as a treatment for intense anxiety or violent behavior. (dictionary.com)

The purpose of a lobotomy is to:

- Treat a variety of mental illnesses
- Not to restore the sanity of the person but to make the person more manageable

The history of a lobotomy:

- Late 1880's-Gottleib Burkhardt performed the first prefrontal leukotomy in an insane asylum, two of six patients died (one from infection, one from suicide)
- 1935-Anronio Egas Moniz and Pedro Almeida Lima modified the psychosurgery to drilling two holes into the head and then pouring ethyl alcohol into the prefrontal cortex
- 1936-Water J. Freeman and James W. Watts modified the surgery and created the Freeman-Watts standard lobotomy (a procedure that outlines the correct angles to move the leukotone)
- 1945-Freeman created the transorbital lobotomy(an ice pick through the bone behind the eye socket)
- 1946-Freeman did the first transorbital lobotomy on a human
- Mid 1950's-medications become the leading treatment for mental illnesses and psychosurgeries slowed down