

What Survives

In each of the five cases below, ask yourself if the person who leaves the clinic after the procedure would be you? If that person were kidnapped and tortured, would it be you, or someone else, who suffered?

First Case: You enter a clinic where you are given a sleeping pill, and while you are unconscious, every hair on your body is removed.

Second Case: You enter a clinic and are given a sleeping pill, but shortly after falling asleep your body (including your brain) is destroyed completely and utterly. A different but qualitatively identical body (created prior to your body's destruction) is put in its place and then *that* body undergoes the same hair-removal process described above.

Third Case: You enter a clinic and you are given the same sleeping pill and undergo the same bodily destruction described above, but instead of undergoing total hair loss, the new (qualitatively identical) body undergoes a radical form of cosmetic surgery: it is improved in whatever manner you most desire. (Bags under your eyes? Gone! Funny looking nose? Not anymore! You get the idea...) Imagine also that the psychology of this person can be modified through very sophisticated brain surgery, and accordingly any neurosis or other character flaws you have come to dislike in yourself can be removed. In addition, suppose that intelligence could be increased significantly.

Fourth Case: Just like the second case, but your brain is not destroyed. It is transplanted into the new body. Hair removal follows.

Fifth Case: Just like the third case, but your brain is not destroyed. After brain surgery to remove character flaws and add intelligence, it is transplanted into the new, cosmetically improved body.