

AN OP-ED FROM THE FUTURE

Stop Messing With Your Kid's Brain

The MnemoSync procedure is destroying the physical and mental health of our youth, and the education system isn't helping.

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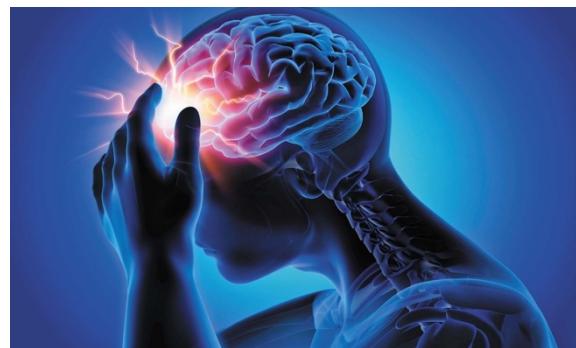
Last week was my son's 10th birthday, and he wanted *the surgery*. I think we all know by now what that surgery is: the attachment of the cybernetic implant into the brain's temporal lobe – more colloquially known as MnemoSync. Since he was young, I have done my best to shelter him from the MnemoSync name, but the technology is quickly overtaking everyday life. You can call me "old school," but I don't want my son to turn into a robot.

The MnemoSync procedure is a two-step surgery. The first step involves surgically inserting a cybernetic implant into the temporal lobe of the brain. According to CEO Christine Cheng, the implant "secures to the cerebral tissue [and creates] artificial synapses that allow impulses to be transferred from inside brain tissue to the outside world." The second step is the addition of the USB port into the left temple. With this, users can transfer thoughts through an extension cord or use the holographic device to provide a visual display of thoughts and memories.

Within the last few decades, MnemoSync went from a futuristic prototype tested only on an elite few to a widespread phenomenon, similar to the way Apple revolutionized digital technology with the iPhone 92 years ago. The original purpose for MnemoSync was to provide means of communication to those unable to communicate. For example, MnemoSync would allow someone who was paralyzed in an accident to share his/her thoughts through the device. However, with a reduction in surgical costs and growing public interest, the product quickly took over the world.

Young children are now exposed to MnemoSync at an exceptionally early age due to friends and family sharing their thoughts through the holographic feature. The procedure to have MnemoSync implanted in the brain is the new coming-of-age trend, but I refuse to trust it.

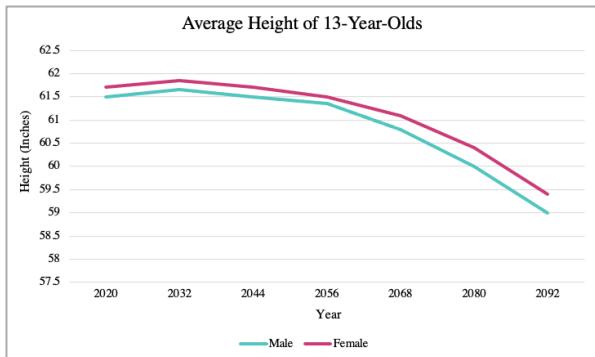
When the MnemoSync technology first began, the risks were slim (less than



0.01% risk of long-term physiological damage). However, its widespread use has now become an addiction. Scientists recommend that MnemoSync only be used for 2-3 hours at a time, but there are few who follow this limitation.

A recent study by physicians at Harvard Medical School found that nutrition across adolescents has continually declined over the last few decades. The average height of 13-year-olds has steadily decreased, leading researchers to believe that MnemoSync is stunting growth among children. With MnemoSync consuming 20% of the body's energy with each use, teenagers are not replenishing themselves after using the technology for long periods of time. Furthermore, there has been an increase in migraines and fatigue among those 10-18 years of age. During puberty,

the body is already working through fluctuations in hormones. Altering the natural balances of the brain by surgically



implanting MnemoSync is only hurting our children during this important time of growth.

Beyond the physical repercussions of the MnemoSync procedure, there are also impacts on mental health. When I ask my son what he did at school each day, I hear “I *watched* this from Michael’s hologram” or “Sarah *showed* me what she did this weekend and it looked so fun!” I fear that as he gets older, he will continually be bombarded by the experiences of others and forget where his thoughts end and someone else’s begin.

Christine Dennis, a psychologist at Stanford University, published an article depicting this deterioration of mental health. The rates of depression among teenagers aged 13-18 has skyrocketed, reaching nearly 40% in the most recent study from 2098. MnemoSync is to blame, and it enhances the fears felt nearly a century ago with the rise of social media. After all, MnemoSync is essentially the three-dimensional development of social media – it is a danger that leads to unhealthy comparisons. When young adults become reliant on viewing memories and thoughts like a motion picture, the present life seems dull in comparison.

Despite these health trends, the U.S. Department of Education has done little to

advocate against the use of MnemoSync in schools. With so many students undergoing the procedure, it is understandably difficult to monitor the device’s use at all times. However, there should be regulations in place to maintain organization in the learning environment. Our children deserve to learn without MnemoSync as a distraction.

If MnemoSync continues to be used at high rates as it is today – both in and out of the classroom – students will fail to strengthen communication skills that have been vital to society since the beginning of civilization. The classic essays and group presentations will no longer fill the curriculum. Who needs grammar and clean handwriting when you can portray your thoughts through an extension cord or a visual hologram? There is no need to work through problems using pencil and paper. There is no need to write stories in an imaginative manner when MnemoSync can easily do it for you. While it may seem quite dramatic at the moment, I can’t help but feel that language, as a written and verbal medium, will soon become obsolete due to the effects of MnemoSync. I worry that each new generation of young people will fail to strengthen their natural intelligence and work ethic due to this reliance on technology.

I want my son to grow up in a world of creativity, in which he forms his own opinions and expresses his individuality. Why should he rely on a piece of artificial technology when he is perfectly capable of articulating ideas himself? As a father, I urge other parents to reconsider having the MnemoSync procedure done on their children. The physical and mental health effects are simply not worth it. MnemoSync is a societal addiction, and I fear that if more parents don’t speak up now, it may be too late to save the brains of our youth.