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Question 2 (Carl Elliott)

Elliot's article "Amputees by Choice" describes an issue that individuals are having where they want to amputate specific limbs of their body, even though those limbs are fully functional. Elliot states that this is problematic because, during the time this article was published, there was a surge of people wanting to get their limbs amputated voluntarily. At first, many people were confused as to why people would even consider thinking about removing healthy limbs but some reasons, I saw were either because they wanted to make themselves feel better or make the people around them like them more. However, when most healthcare professionals are confronted by these people and their demands will deny them, but it is stated that even though the doctors refuse the patients will often go through with it themselves or result in illegal methods. For example, some instances from Elliot's article depict people taking these amputations into their own hands. Firstly, there was a mentally competent Milwaukee man who, "-severed his arm with a homemade guillotine, and then threatened to sever it again if surgeons reattached it." (Elliot, 654). Then, there was a legal investigator who tried to amputate her two legs, because she was denied a hospital amputation, but since she failed in her attempt, she stated that "she will probably have to lie under a train or shoot her legs off with a shotgun" (Elliot, 654). Also, there is an instance on page 657 where a patient held the doctor at gunpoint after the doctor originally refused to perform the surgery. In the future will people have surgeries to create permanent scars or markings on their bodies for aesthetic benefits (including robotic limbs)?