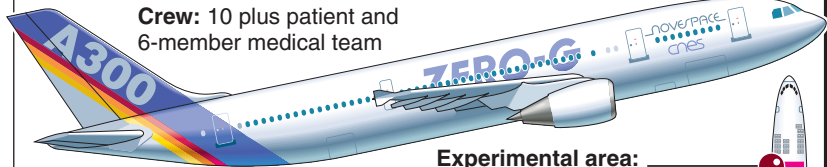


# Docs fly high for operation in “space”

French doctors cut a cyst off a volunteer's arm during the world's first ever surgery on a human in zero-gravity. The 11-minute operation, aboard an Airbus A300, was performed during repeated parabolic swoops which created about 20 seconds of weightlessness at the top of each curve

**Crew:** 10 plus patient and 6-member medical team



**Experimental area:**

Length 20m, width 5m, height 2.3m

**PARABOLIC MANOEUVRE**

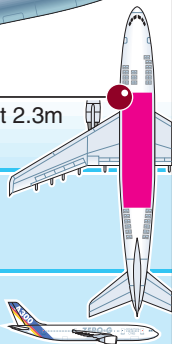
**8,500m**

*Injection point*

*Recovery point*

**7,600m**

**6,000m**



## **2. Parabola:**

Pilot reduces thrust almost to zero – plane climbs for another five seconds

## **1. Nose-up manoeuvre:**

Plane accelerates at 1.8 times gravity into steep climb of 45 degrees

## **3. Free-fall:**

Weightless periods when plane reaches apex of curve and begins to drop

**4. Pull up:** As fall angle goes below 45 degrees plane is pulled back into horizontal flight

**20 seconds**

**5**

**20 seconds**

**5**

**20 seconds**

**Each manoeuvre followed by at least 2-minute rest period**