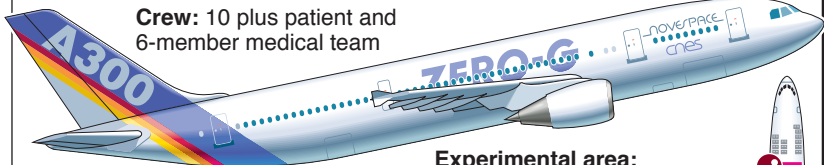


# Docs fly high for operation in "space"

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



## PARABOLIC MANOEUVRE

8,500m

*Injection point*

**Experimental area:**

Length 20m, width 5m, height 2.3m

*Recovery point*

7,600m

6,000m

### 1. Nose-up manoeuvre:

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

20 seconds

5

### 3. Free-fall: Weightless

periods when plane reaches apex of curve and begins to drop

20 seconds

### 4. Pull up: As fall

angle goes below 45 degrees plane is pulled back into horizontal flight

5

20 seconds

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