Compare what was found 15 years ago Human antibodies used to treat weak hearts to today's current research on antibodies and use in weak heart treatments. The following information is directly from: Heart Information Network. Human Antibodies Used to Treat Weak Hearts. http://www.heartinfo.com/news97/antibdy61797.htm (accessed 28 July 2000). © REUTERS 'Doctors are injecting human antibodies, immune globulin, into patients who suffer from a condition that severely weakens the heart. The cause of the condition, called acute cardiomyopathy, is unknown in about 50% of patients who have it, although previous studies have led scientists to conjecture that a viral infection, or a viral infection compounded by the body's immune system going into overdrive (called an autoimmune response), leads the body to attack the heart itself. Injections of human antibodies may prevent further damage to the heart, and thus allow the heart to begin to recover its strength. Past treatments for this illness involved the use of drugs that attempt to suppress the immune system in order to delay or eliminate the need for a heart transplant; these treatments were unsuccessful. Researchers instead looked to immune globulin therapy which is derived from donated blood. According to the research team's lead scientist, Dr. Dennis McNamara, director of the cardiomyopathy clinic at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania, immune globulin had been successful in treating another illness called acute heart inflammation, in which immune globulin was used to "reset" the body's immune system so that it would no longer attack the body. According to the American Heart Association, 50,000 adults each year suffer from cardiomyopathy associated with viral infections. Many of these people are in their 20's and 30's and it is the most common reason why people in this age group need heart transplants. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center treated ten critically ill cardiomyopathy patients (all aged 18 to 60 and awaiting heart transplants) with intravenous immune globulin for six days. While one patient died before completing the therapy, the other nine improved and eventually were discharged from the hospital without requiring the heart transplant. When the researchers did a follow-up report one year later, they found that the patients' heart function had improved to a much greater extent than they predicted, based on success rates of other patients with the condition. The study's participants are now two years past their initial treatment and all are doing very well. A larger study using immune globulin treatment is currently being conducted at six medical centers around the U.S.' This article is almost 15 years old. Outline some of the major points from the article-