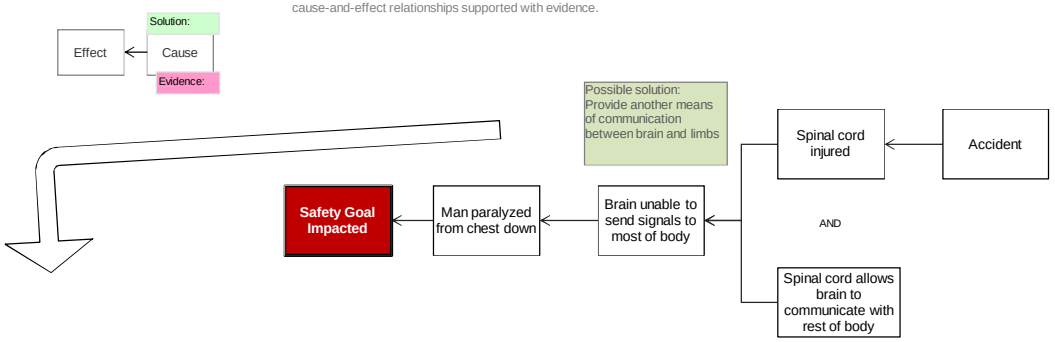
The Future Is Now?: Building a Neurobridge

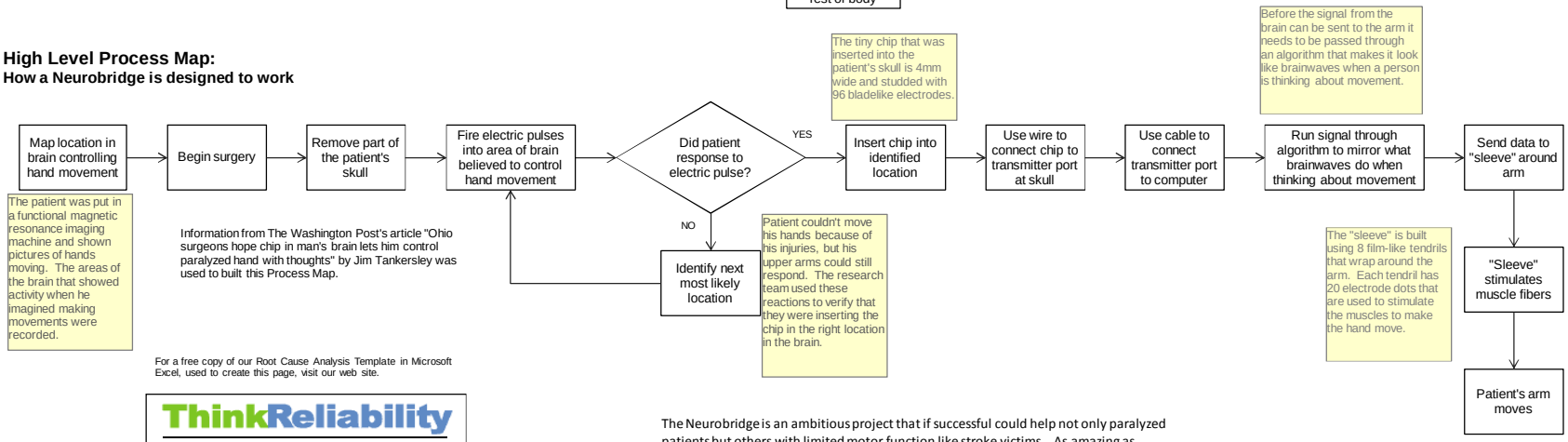
A chip was recently inserted into the brain of a man paralyzed from the chest down with the goal of allowing him to move his hand. The tiny microchip is part of a system, called a Neurobridge, which uses a computer and a sleeve that fits around the patient's arm in addition to the chip to allow the patient to communicate with his limb by bypassing his damaged spinal cord. If the procedure works, the patient will be the first paralyzed person who has used his own thoughts to control a limb. By the end of May, researchers will know whether the procedure was a success.

High Level Cause Map

Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.



High Level Process Map:
How a Neurobridge is designed to work



Information from The Washington Post's article "Ohio surgeons hope chip in man's brain lets him control paralyzed hand with thoughts" by Jim Tankersley was used to built this Process Map.

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

The Neurobridge is an ambitious project that if successful could help not only paralyzed patients but others with limited motor function like stroke victims. As amazing as Neurobridge sounds, it's just one of many types of brain implants being actively researched and some of the ideas sound more like science fiction than plain old science.