



Tissue Donation

Donated tissue for transplant is a gift that helps more than a million people experience new possibilities every year. More than 1.5 million allografts are provided worldwide each year for a variety of life-saving and life-enhancing surgeries. Many people are unaware of the fact that their gift may improve the lives of up to one hundred people if they choose to be a tissue donor.

Bone allografts (including vertebral segments) are transplanted in patients whose bones have degenerated from or have been damaged by disease, cancer, or traumatic injury. The gift of bone and soft tissue allografts prevent amputations and restore patient's mobility.

Soft tissue allografts such as ligaments, tendons, and meniscus are transplanted to repair or replace damaged tissue or joints to help patients lead more active lives.

- The bone and soft tissue allografts are recovered through surgical procedures that include sterile incision techniques and full reconstruction.
 - **Upper body bone/soft tissue:** incision made from the shoulder to the wrist. The humerus and tendons are removed and a dowel is inserted for reconstruction. Funeral arrangement dependent.
 - **Lower body bone/soft tissue:** incision made from the hip to the ankle. The iliac crest, femur, tib/fib and all tendons/ligaments associated with those bones are recovered. Dowel placement and applicable coverings are used for reconstruction.
 - Reconstruction is performed on all donors regardless of final disposition arrangements.

Juvenile Cartilage allograft (lower body bone for pediatrics): stems cells from the knee capsules regenerates and restores damaged cartilage in individuals with arthritis or joint disease.

Heart valves can be transplanted in adults and pediatric patients to repair damaged valves and other defects of the heart.

Vascular tissue (AI, DTA, femoral and saphenous veins) can be transplanted in both limb and cardiac bypass surgeries to restore blood flow.

Skin allografts can be transplanted to prevent infection and heal the wounds of patients who have been burned, as well as to help regenerate new soft tissue for cancer patients, trauma victims, and patients with severe abdominal defects.

- The skin grafts are recovered from the back, abdominal and circumferential legs.

Adipose allograft is the mesenchymal stem cells found in the abdomen (belly fat) that radically decreases the healing time for a bone allograft transplant recipient.