

FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT TISSUE DONATION

1 Who can donate tissues?

Any patient who has died of cardiopulmonary death or brain death can donate tissues. A person who has died of cardiopulmonary death can only donate tissue. While someone who has died of brain death can donate tissues and also organs. Examples of tissues that can be donated in Malaysia are cornea, heart valves, skin and bones.

2 How do I know if a person is eligible for tissue donation?

A person is eligible for tissue donation if he has no evidence of:

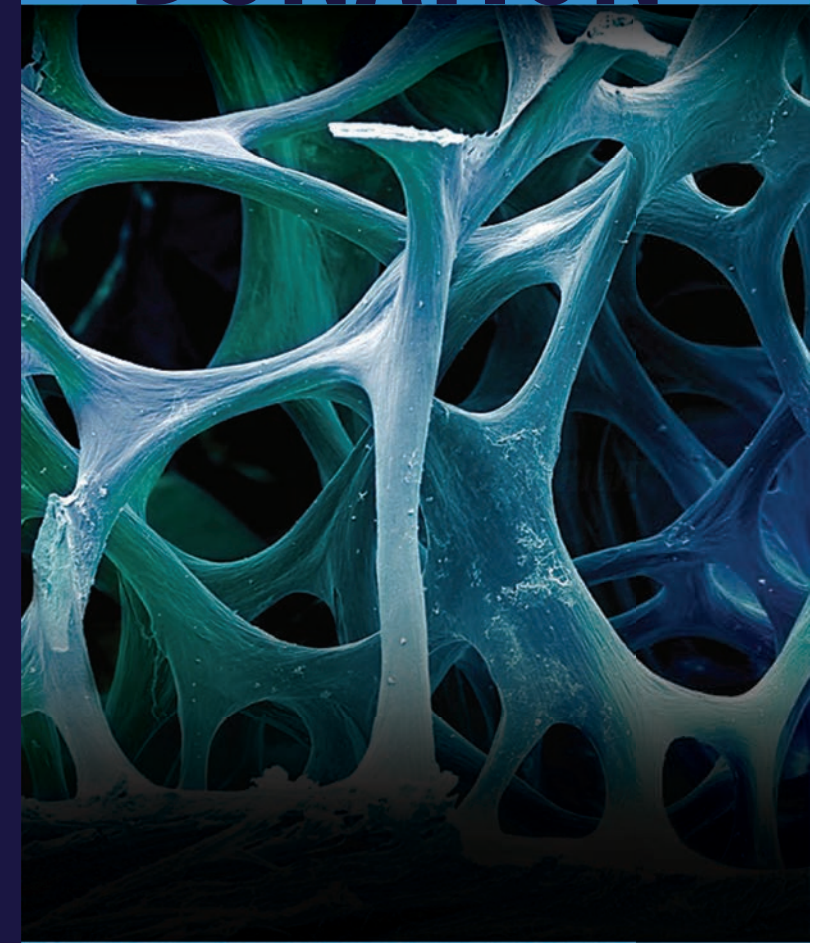
- (i) overwhelming sepsis and
- (ii) has no risk factors or clinical history or evidence to suggest transmissible infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis.
- (iii) For cornea donation, malignancy is not a contraindication except for some brain and eye tumours or blood malignancies such as leukaemias or lymphomas.
- (iv) However, for other tissues (other than cornea), malignancy is a contraindication except in patient with basal cell carcinoma or CIN 1 of cervix or non-metastatic CNS tumour.

You may contact your local Tissue and Organ Procurement Team (TOP Team) or contact the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur if you are not sure about the eligibility criteria (contact no. at the back of this leaflet).

3 What are the benefits of tissue donation?

Tissue donation is important. Corneal transplantation can help to restore eye sight of patients with various corneal problems which may be a result of eye disease, injury or congenital defects. Examples of common indications for corneal transplantation are corneal scarring, keratoconus, ulcerative keratitis or perforation. Heart valves transplant can be a life saving procedure for a child with congenital heart defects or adult with secondary heart valves defects. Bone grafting is done to rebuild and repair diseased bones in various orthopaedic conditions. Skin can be used as natural dressing in particular for patients with burns or in reconstructive surgery. Locally processed tissues are relatively cheaper than the imported ones.

TISSUE DONATION



This leaflet was designed to provide basic information for healthcare personnel on organ and tissue donation and other relevant issues. It is intended to improve awareness and increase the deceased organ and tissue donation rate in the country. It may not be comprehensive and therefore further reading, discussion and consultation is encouraged.

This information leaflet was developed by the Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia and the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur

For any feedback please email to transplantation_unit@moh.gov.my, or write and address to Transplantation Unit, Level 5, Block E1, Complex E, Federal Government Administrative Centre, 62590 Putrajaya Malaysia.

Working group: Dr Hirman Ismail, Dr Shamala Retnasabapathy, Associate Prof. Dr Suzina Sheikh Ab. Hamid, Datin Dr Fadhillah Zowyah Lela Yasmin Mansor, Dr Muhammed Anis Bin Abd. Wahab, Dr Omar Sulaiman, Matron Jamaliah Kario

© 2011 Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia. All rights reserved.

Essential Information For Medical Practitioners



8 What shall I do if I find the donor card in the deceased's possession?

You can alert your local Tissue and Organ Procurement Team (TOP Team) or local Transplant Resource Centre (in selected hospitals) or National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur for further action and consultation (contact no. at the back of this leaflet).

9 Where can I get further information?

You can get further information from your local Tissue and Organ Procurement Team (TOP Team) or local Transplant Resource Centre (in selected hospitals). You may also contact the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur:

Office (HKL) : (603) 26942704 or (603) 26942705
 Office (Wisma Sejarah) : (603) 26810681
 On call : (6019) 3885654
 Toll free : 1-800-88-9080
 Fax : (603) 26156269
 Email : ntrc@hkl.moh.gov.my
 Website : www.agiftolife.gov.my
 Facebook : www.facebook.com/agiftolife

For referral of cases or any clinical consultation, you may contact coordinator on call (no. as above).

4 How tissues are procured and processed?

Tissues procurements following cardiopulmonary death are usually done in the mortuary, while that from the brain dead donor are carried out in the OT as part of multi-organ and tissue extraction. Procurements of tissue are done meticulously and with full respect to the deceased. Tissues procured from the deceased are processed in various tissue bank facilities such as Tissue Bank Universiti Sains Malaysia, Bone Bank HKL, Corneal Bank Hospital Sungai Buloh and the National Heart Institute. Tissues are also sent to the Malaysian Nuclear Agency for sterilisation. Tissues will be stored in these facilities before transplantation.

5 What should I do if I would like to refer my patient for tissue donation?

You may alert your local Tissue and Organ Procurement Team (TOP Team) or contact the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur for further action and consultation (contact no. at the back of this leaflet). They will help to determine suitability for donation.

6 How long after death can a deceased donate their tissues?

If the body is cooled in the mortuary, cornea can be procured up to 12 hours after death. Other tissues like heart valves, bones and skin can be procured up to 24 hours after death. In some cases, corneas can also be procured either at home or funeral homes.

7 How should I approach family members for tissue donation?

It is important to note that family members of the deceased will be in deep grief. It is important to understand their sensitivity and therefore, in some cases, a consultant advice is needed before approaching family members. Family members can be approached after death is confirmed. Advice can be obtained from the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur on how to approach family members (contact no. at the back of this leaflet). More and more families are now aware about organ donation and many may want to donate, especially if it is the wish of the deceased, but forgot about it in their grief. The best approach is to look for or enquire from the family whether the deceased carries the donor card.

