

## **Patient Information**

### **Donating Bone**

Within the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board we are currently operating a 'Bone Bank'. This allows the use of bone taken from a patient during routine hip replacement to be used to help other patients undergoing more complicated orthopaedic operations. During joint replacement surgery the bone which is removed to enable the new joint to be fitted is normally discarded. Through the bone bank we can now store this bone and use it for patients who need it.

#### **What is the bone used for?**

Most commonly the bone is used to supplement a patient's own bone, for example, children requiring operations to correct spinal deformities, certain types of hip surgery and to splint fractures that have not healed. There is a shortage of bone available to help these people, for this reason we are asking you to donate bone.

#### **What are the criteria for donating bone?**

If you would like to donate your bone during your hip replacement surgery, we will need to ask you some questions about your health. Certain infections and diseases mean that we cannot accept every donation of bone.

#### **You should not consider donating bone if:-**

- you or your partner have the HIV virus
- you or your partner carry the hepatitis B or C virus
- you are a man and have had sex with another man
- you have ever worked as a prostitute
- you have ever injected yourself with drugs
- you have haemophilia or similar bleeding disorders for which you receive factor concentrates
- you were sexually active in Africa in the last year.

## **You should not consider donating bone for a year after having sex with:-**

- someone you know to be HIV or hepatitis B or C positive
- a man who has had sex with another man (if you are female)
- a prostitute
- someone who has injected drugs
- someone with haemophilia or similar bleeding disorder and who has received factor concentrates
- someone who has been sexually active in Africa in the past year.

## **What is involved in bone donation?**

A nurse will explain bone donation and will answer any questions you might have. She will ask you questions, some of which are of a delicate nature. Most of these may have no relevance to you or your social or medical background, but we are obliged to ask them for testing purposes.

If you are still considered suitable for bone donation after this set of questions, we will ask you to sign a consent form. This means you agree to bone donation and the associated screening tests. Once we have obtained your consent we will require you to undergo a blood test. This will be performed at the same time as your routine pre-operative screening investigations. This is a test for Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis, HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) and HTLV (human T-cell leukaemia virus). Should any of these tests show any abnormality, we will contact you and will refer you for further investigations, counselling, and treatment. We will need to take another blood sample six months after your operation to ensure that your blood still remains free from infection. This will be done at the same time as your routine six months check-up.

## **Am I obliged to donate my bone?**

No, you are under no obligation whatsoever to consent to donating your bone. However, allowing your bone to be used for transplantation may well make a considerable difference to someone else's major surgery.

**Where can I get further information?**

If you need further information about bone donation, please contact the relevant hospital for the Bone Bank on the following numbers:-

Royal Gwent Hospital - 01633 - 238082

Nevill Hall Hospital - 01873 - 732413

**Thank you for your time.**