

Information for Patients

Receiving a Bone Graft

Here at the Royal Gwent Hospital we operate a "Bone Bank." This involves the collection of bone usually discarded during routine hip replacement surgery. The bone is stored in a purpose built low temperature freezer until such time as it is cleared for use as bone suitable to use as graft in other patients.

Where has the bone come from?

The bone retrieved during hip replacement surgery has come from a consenting donor. The donor patient has received an information leaflet similar to this one and has completed a questionnaire providing the information necessary to decide whether or not they are a suitable candidate for bone donation.

Has the donor been tested for any disease etc?

Having received consent from the donor to use their discarded bone a blood sample is then taken and tested for Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis, HTLV (Human T-cell leukaemia virus) and HIV (the virus that causes AIDS).

Further tests are then performed on samples taken from the bone at the time it is removed from the donor.

The donor is asked to come back to clinic six months after the operation, and a second blood sample is taken and all tests are repeated.

How do you decide if the bone is suitable and cleared for use?

Only when all the results of all tests carried out come back as negative can the bone be cleared for use.

