

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 to encourage growth of new bone by filling the gap when diseased bone is removed. For example, children requiring operations to correct spinal deformities, certain types of hip surgery and to splint or fill 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, travel and sexual behaviour, it is important to answer these questions openly and honestly.

Certain infections and diseases mean that we cannot accept every donation of bone.

What is involved in bone donation?

A specially trained 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 remains free from infection. You will be contacted by the Bone Bank Team advising of how to undergo these tests but may require you to attend your GP or clinic. It is important to undergo these repeat tests as we cannot use your bone without them.

What happens to my bone donation?

Your bone donation will be kept in frozen storage, until all the necessary test results have been checked, before being used for patient treatment.

Sometimes your bone may not be suitable for patient treatment, in which case it will be discarded in a lawful manner.

Sometimes your bone can be passed on to a company who distributes human tissue at a non-profit-making cost.

You should not consider donating bone if: -

- You have the HIV virus or AIDS or think you need a test for either
- You carry the hepatitis B or C virus or think you need a test for either
- You have ever had Syphilis or HTLV
- You have injected or been injected with illegal or non-prescribed drugs, this includes body-building drugs and injectable tanning agents.
- You have haemophilia or similar bleeding disorder and have received factor concentrates.

You should not consider donating bone for at least 3 months if you have: -

- a recent diagnosis of a bacterial sexually transmitted disease
- used drugs during sex (this excludes erectile dysfunction drugs and cannabis)
- on gender re-assignment medication
- taken pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis (PREP) for prevention of HIV
- you have had anal sex with a new partner, or had sex with more than one partner and had anal sex
- you have received money or drugs for sex.

You should not consider donating bone for at least 3 months after having sex with: -

- someone you know to be HIV or hepatitis B, C, Syphilis or HTLV positive
- A man who has had sex with another man (Females) another man (Males).
- A partner who has ever received money or drugs for sex
- A partner who has injected drugs
- A partner haemophilia or similar bleeding disorder and have received factor concentrates.

Am I obliged to donate my bone?

No, you are under no obligation whatsoever to consent to donating your bone. The decision to donate or not will not affect your surgery in any way. However, allowing your bone to be used for transplantation may well make a considerable difference to someone else's major surgery.

Data Protection

ABUHB Bone Bank keeps a record of donor information on a secure database. This database is used to record all donation details. We are required to keep this information to ensure the traceability of donations. All the information is treated with the strictest confidence.

The information may also be used for audit to assess and improve the quality of our service. All information and data that is processed by the bone bank is in accordance with data protection law. We are required to keep our records for at least 30 years.

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 number:-

Royal Gwent Hospital -01633 -238082

Thank you for your time.

**This document is available in Welsh /
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg**