

# Tissue Transplant in Oral Surgery



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# Tissue Transplant in Oral Surgery

You may need a tissue transplant during your oral (mouth) surgery. Human tissues used for transplant are called **allografts**.

Human tissues for transplant come from someone who has died and chose to help others by donating their tissue.

## What types of tissue can be transplanted?

- Bone tissue is used to replace lost or missing bone caused by an injury, an infection, or the removal of a tumour.
- Bone grafts can build up areas that do not have enough bone to allow for the placement of dental implants.
- Bone grafts help the body form new bone to improve the bone's shape, strength, and function.

## What are donor tissues screened (tested) for?

- Tissue donors are screened to make sure they are able to donate.
- Under Canadian law, a donor's blood **must** be tested to make sure there are no diseases that could be passed on to a recipient (person getting the donor tissue). These tests include:
  - › HIV
  - › Hepatitis B and C
  - › Syphilis

## What are the benefits of a tissue transplant?

- Using donated tissue avoids the need to take tissue from another part of your body. This means:
  - › The surgery is shorter.
  - › There is less pain and swelling.
  - › You will recover faster.

## **What are the risks of a tissue transplant?**

- Human tissues for transplant are very safe. Like any medical procedure, there are risks.
- There is a very low risk of disease or infection from tissue donation. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this risk.

## **What is informed consent?**

- Before you get a tissue transplant, your surgeon will talk with you about the risks and benefits. They will then ask for your informed consent (permission) to do the transplant.

**Always ask questions if you do not understand any part of your treatment.**

## **What can I expect after tissue transplant surgery?**

- Talk with your surgeon about what to expect after surgery. They can help you understand:
  - › what will happen during and after your surgery.
  - › any pain and swelling to expect.
  - › when you can go back to your usual activities.

- **It is important to remember that many of the symptoms you have after surgery are common and are not caused by your transplant.** You may have pain and swelling from your surgery.
- **Pain that gets worse or a fever may be a sign of a complication.**

### **What should I do if I think I am having a problem after my surgery?**

- Call your surgeon's office and tell them your symptoms. They may tell you to come to their office or to go to the nearest Emergency Department right away.
- **Surgeon's office:**
  - › Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- **If it is outside the surgeon's office hours, go to the nearest Emergency Department right away.** Sometimes a complication can get worse very fast.

### **For more information about tissue donation in Nova Scotia:**

- Call QE II Locating and ask to have the Tissue Bank Specialist on call paged:
  - › Phone: 1-902-473-2220

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find all patient education resources here:  
[www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources](http://www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources)

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:  
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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