

Tissue Transplant in Oral Surgery

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

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

Prepared by: Nova Scotia Provincial Blood Coordinating Team
Designed and Managed by: Library Services

WU85-2227 © November 2025 Nova Scotia Health Authority
To be reviewed November 2028 or sooner, if needed.
Learn more: <https://library.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources>



Aussi disponible en français : FF85-2328

Notes:

- 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

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.