

Patient & Family Guide  
2021

# Tissue Transplant in Oral Surgery



**IWK Health**

Aussi disponible en français :  
*Greffe de tissus pour chirurgie buccale (FF85-####)*



[www.nshealth.ca](http://www.nshealth.ca)

# Tissue Transplant in Oral Surgery

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

## Where do tissues for transplant come from?

Human tissues come from tissue donors who have died. A tissue donor is someone who chose to help others by donating tissue.

## What types of tissue can be transplanted?

- **Skin:** A thin layer of dermis (skin) can be used to replace damaged tissue. This can repair or support defects like receding gums.
- **Bone:** This can be used to replace lost or missing bone.
- **Pericardium:** This is a thin, fiber sac that surrounds the heart. It can be used to help tissue regeneration (regrowth).

## **What are donor tissues screened 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 receiving the donor tissue). These tests include:
  - › HIV
  - › Hepatitis B and C
  - › Syphilis

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

Human tissues for transplant are very safe. As with any medical procedure, there are risks. These include the risk of disease or infection. While the chance of this is very low, be sure to talk to your primary health care provider or transplant surgeon if you have any questions.

## What is informed consent?

Before you receive a tissue transplant, your transplant 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 transplant 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 as a result of the surgery itself.
- **Pain that gets worse instead of better or a fever may be a sign of a complication.**

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

- Call your primary health care provider right away. Tell them about your symptoms.
- If you cannot reach your primary health care provider, call your surgeon. Tell them about your symptoms. They may tell you to come to their office or to go to the nearest Emergency Department right away.
- **If you have unexpected symptoms at night, 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:**

### **Regional Tissue Bank**

- › [www.cdha.nshealth.ca/regional-tissue-bank](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/regional-tissue-bank)
- › Phone (toll-free): 1-800-314-6515

### **OR**

- › Call QEII Locating at 1-902-473-2220 and ask to have the Tissue Bank Specialist on call paged.



### **Looking for more health information?**

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <https://library.nshealth.ca/PatientEducation>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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[www.nshealth.ca](http://www.nshealth.ca)

*Prepared by: Nova Scotia Provincial Blood Coordinating Team*

*Designed by: Nova Scotia Health Library Services*

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.