
MUSCULOSKELETAL ALLOGRAFT TISSUE SAFETY



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BASIC AWARENESS

The use of musculoskeletal allograft tissue in reconstructive orthopaedic procedures has markedly increased over the last decade. (Figure 1)

Surgeon knowledge of tissue bank practices in donor gifting and screening, serology testing and processing is important when making the decision to use these allograft tissues.

The orthopaedic surgeon also has the responsibility to inform the patient about the risks and benefits of using allograft tissue.

This handout provides an overview of some of these issues.

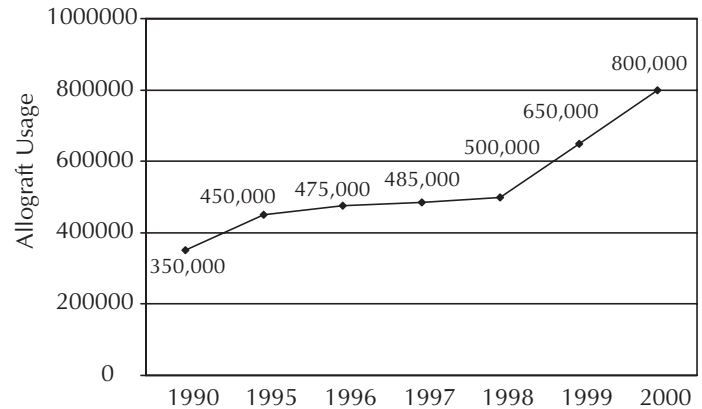


Figure 1: Musculoskeletal allograft usage.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstracts of US 2001.

What are Commonly Used Allografts in Orthopaedic Procedures?

Bone

- Demineralized bone products (osteoinductive)
- Cortical/cancellous – powder, chips, wedges, dowels, crest, pegs and screws
- Structural – segments, shafts, long bones, pelvis, acetabulum
- Osteochondral long bone (cryopreservation cartilage)
- Ribs, mandible, calvarium, ear ossicles

Soft Tissue

- Patellar and Achilles tendon (bone block), rotator cuff, other tendons
- Fascia lata

Cartilage

- Menisci, osteoarticular segments, costal cartilage



Figure 2: Bone-patellar tendon-bone allograft.



Figure 3: Dowel and iliac crest allograft.



Figure 4: Femoral allograft.

What are the Milestones in Tissue Banking?

- 1881 First human bone transplant under aseptic conditions
- 1925 Lexer: First reported large series of bone transplants (50% success rate)
- 1950 U.S. Navy Tissue Bank established in Bethesda, Maryland
- 1955 Low temperature preservation of bone (reduction of antigenicity)
- 1960s Early reports of successful use of tissue implants
- 1972 Ottolenghi: Long bone/osteoarticular allografts series
- 1973 Parrish: Long bone allograft replacement series
- 1983 Mankin: Two hundred large bone allograft series
- 1984 First Standards for Tissue Banking published by the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB)
- 1985 AATB Inspection/Accreditation Program initiated 1983
- 1989 AATB Training and Certification Program for Tissue Bank Specialists (CTBS)
- 1993 FDA: Interim Rule on Tissue Transplantation (FDA Auditing initiated)
- 1994 AATB Inspection/Accreditation Program using trained former FDA compliance officers
- 1997 FDA: Final Rule on Tissue Transplantation
- 2001 Establishment of Registration and Product Listing
Proposed Good Tissue Practices; Inspection and Enforcement
More than 800,00 tissue transplants annually in the U.S.
- 2002 72 AATB Accredited Tissue Banks (Consult AATB Web Site at www.aatb.org)



Figure 5: First depicted allograft transplantation. 12th Century painting of Saints Cosmos and Damian.



Figure 6: AATB Standards.



Figure 7: Femoral strut.

What has Occurred in Government Regulation?

- 1984 National Organ Transplant Act
- 1985 HIV antibody testing (FDA) for blood products
- 1991 HCV antibody testing (FDA) for blood products
- 1993 FDA Interim Rule on Tissue Transplantation
- 1995 JCAHO oversight in tissue banking
- 1997 FDA: Final Rule on Tissue Transplantation (with guidance)
- 1997 FDA: Proposed approach to regulation of tissue products
- 1998 HCFA: Requirements for hospital participation in organ/tissue donation
- 1999 FDA: Proposed rule suitability determination for donation
- 2001 FDA: Proposed rule for Good Tissue Practice
FDA: Establishment of registration of tissue banks and manufacturers of tissue products
(1983 to 1998 multiple Public Health Service/Guidance documents)

What Practical Steps are Taken in Tissue Banking in Assessment and Processing?

Detailed inquiry into donor's medical, social and sexual history (including autopsy if accomplished)

Donor Screening: History

At Time of Donation, **No** History of:

- Recent active infection or sepsis
- Systemic viral illness (Hepatitis, HIV, West Nile, etc.)
- Untreated syphilis, active tuberculosis, leprosy
- Autoimmune disease
- Ingestion toxic substances
- Rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus, polyarteritis nodosa, sarcoidosis, myasthenia gravis
- Clinically significant metabolic bone disease
- Clinically significant malignancy
- Dementia, dura mater transplant or use of human derived pituitary growth factor (Spongiform Disease, CJD)
- Risk factors for HIV (as listed by US Public Health Service)

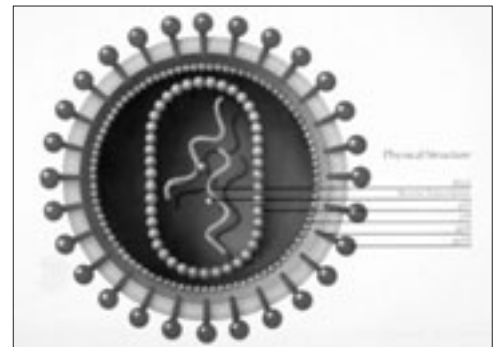


Figure 8: HIV virus - led to improved donor screening.

Donor Screening: Physical Examination

Physical Examination of Potential Donors Includes **No** Evidence of:

- Active infection: viral, bacterial or fungal
- Physical evidence of risk for sexually transmitted diseases such as genital ulcers, herpes simplex, syphilis, chancroid
- Needle tracts (nonmedical); recent tattoos (12 months)
- Lymph node enlargement (disseminated)
- Jaundice, icterus, hepatomegaly
- Blue/purple spots consistent with Kaposi's sarcoma
- Evidence anal intercourse (perianal condyloma)
- Oral thrush
- Open local wounds
- Clinically significant skin lesions

Serologic Testing

Tests Required by FDA; performed by CLIA - approved laboratories:

- HIV 1/HIV 2 Antibody (residual risk 1:689,655)
- HTLV I/HTLV II Antibody
- HB_sAg (residual risk 1:77,220)
- HCV Antibody (residual risk 1:19,850)
- Syphilis
- HB Core Antibody (FDA: For living donors)
(general New York State requirement)

Residual Risk Source: GAO/HEHS-98-205 Blood Plasma Safety

Additional Testing Usually Done:

- HIV Antigen
- HIV PCR Testing
- CMV
- Possible use of NAT testing as used in blood (present blood banking NAT testing for living donor serum since 2000 U.S. residual risk HIV 1:2,000,000; HCV 1:2,000,000 and HBV 1:250,000: *Transfusion 42: 966-972, 2002*)

Window Period Period between infection and time virus is detectable by screening tests.			
Virus			
	HIV	HCV	HBV
Window Period using FDA Licensed Tests	22 days (anti HIV _{1,2})	70 days (anti HCV)	56 days (HB _s Ag)
Window Period using NAT* Testing	7-12 days**	10-29 days	41-50 days

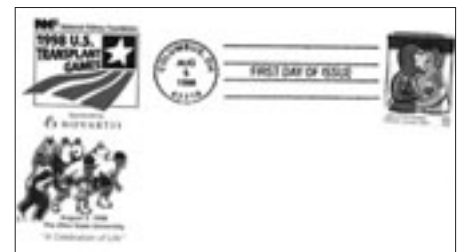
*Nucleic Acid Test
** p24 testing between 12 and 22 days
Source: Busch MP and Kleinman SH, Transfusion 40:143-146, 2000.

Tissue Processing

- Audited or accredited facility following Good Tissue Practice guidelines
- Validated Quality Control/Quality Assurance Program
- Elimination or reduction of debris and cells to reduce disease transmission
- Bacteriologic and virucidal washes
- Evaluation bacteriologic bioburden (preprocessing cultures to evaluate contamination)
- Possible use of gamma radiation 1.5 Mrads (15 kilogray) or more (pre- or post-processing)
- Final product testing for bacteriologic contamination (swabs vs. tissue piece)
- Potential discard of tissue or donor lot based on certain types of early bacteriologic contamination
- Final review by tissue bank medical director of screening/serology/processing prior to release of tissue for transplantation

Sterilization (Selected Tissues)

- Gamma radiation 1.5 - 2.0 Mrads [15 - 20 kilogray] (these amounts or higher may raise concern for integrity of tissues especially soft tissues)
- Ethylene Oxide (concern for residual toxicity and penetration depth)



What are the Episodes of Documented Disease Transmission?

Over past decade more than 5 million musculoskeletal allografts have been safely transplanted. Relatively few incidents of disease transmission have been reported:

Bacterial: Tuberculosis - One case (four recipients): *James et al, JBJS 35B:578, 1953*
Infections - One case: *Tomford et al, JBJS 63A:244-248, 1981*
Three cases: *Lord et al, JBJS 70A:369-376, 1988*
Cases under investigation by CDC: *MMWR 50(48), December 7, 2001*
and *MMWR 51(10), March 15, 2002*



Situation One

- Death November 2001 *Clostridium sordellii*
Osteochondral femoral allograft segment in 23 y/o male

Situation Two: Tissue from same donor - tissues irradiated

- Patient A bone-tendon-bone *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, staph aureus, enterococcus
- Patient B bone-tendon-bone *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Situation Three: Tissue from same donor - tissues were to have been irradiated but not accomplished

- Patient A bone-tendon-bone *Citrobacter werkmanii youngae*; group B streptococci
- Patient B bone-tendon-bone *Klebsiella oxytoca/Halfnia alvei*

Total of 26 cases under review as of March 2002: 13 of 26 were infected with clostridium with 85% of these positive clostridial associated infections coming from a single non-AATB accredited tissue bank. These reports and other allograft "associated" infection reports are under review by CDC. A number of these reports are not allograft "caused" infections.

Viral: Hepatitis B - One case: *Shutkin, JBJS 36A:160-162, 1954*
Hepatitis C - One case: *Eggen and Nordbo, NEJM 326:411, 1992*
Two cases: *Conrad et al, JBJS 77A:214-224, 1995*
One case: 2002 bone-tendon-bone (possible 3 other tissues); under review
HIV - One case: *MMWR 37:397-99, 1983* (Pre-HIV antibody testing)
Three cases: *Simonds et al, NEJM 326:726-732, 1992* (tissue retrieved 1985)

What is the Message?

- More than 800,000 musculoskeletal allografts distributed in US in 2002.
 - Disease transmission is very rare.
 - Conventional sterilization techniques used for metallic implants may adversely affect functional, biological and mechanical properties of most allografts.
 - No reports of disease transmission using demineralized bone products.
 - Some grafts can be treated with 1.5 Mrads (15 kilogray) or more to reduce contamination. This may affect properties of the allograft.
 - Inherent safety of the graft is based upon Good Tissue Practices:
 - Donor screening and physical examination
 - Serologic testing
 - Careful processing techniques
 - Attention to quality control/quality assurance
 - Need for centralized reporting of adverse episodes by surgeons with subsequent investigation and documentation.
 - Outcome studies to improve safety and efficacy.
 - Orthopaedic surgeon needs to know "the tissue banker".
 - Surgeon/patient interaction regarding the risks and benefit of using allograft tissue in their procedure is requisite.
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