Tissue Donation and Transplantation

North Wales Organ Donation Committee
What tissues can be donated?

- **Living Donors:**
  - Femoral Heads
  - Amnion
  - Autologous Serum Eye Drops

- **Deceased Donors:**
  - Heart Valves
  - Skin
  - Blood Vessels
  - Bone
  - Tendons
  - Meniscus
  - Corneas
Pulmonary and Aortic Valves are used to replace defective heart valves due to:

- *Congenital Defects (in babies)*
- *Disease / Damage / Infection in older patients*

- More resistant to infection & avoid the need for potentially dangerous drugs & immunosuppressant's
- Silent & close to normal function, enabling the patient to live a normal life, with no need for long term anti-coagulation therapy and constant testing
Used in the early, life saving treatment of major burns to adults & children

- Prevents contamination from external environmental microorganisms by temporarily closing the wound
- Stimulates underlying tissues
- Prepares a good dermal bed for later cosmetic grafting
A corneal donation can restore or greatly improve the sight of up to two people.

- The whole eye is removed to protect the delicate cornea and is then carefully reconstructed to appear anatomically normal.
- The sclera of the eye can also be used in orbital reconstruction surgery.
Although:

- Age limitations for some tissues
- Medical exclusion criteria
- Time limitation (deceased donation usually happens within 36-48 hrs after death)
- Subject to Coroner’s/Pathologist’s consent
Main Exclusion Criteria

- Degenerative neurological diseases, e.g. Parkinson’s or Alzheimer's
- Known CJD, HIV, Hep B or C
If approached in an open manner, without expectation, it is a misconception that the recentlybereaved will be further distressed by the mention of donation. For many, it brings choices and options in tragic situations that actually brings families some comfort.
“ Donation may be an option for you to consider. A specialist nurse working with the Trust may telephone you when you get home to go through the possibilities and answer any questions you may have so you can make an informed decision. Is this ok?”
How to refer a potential donor

Page the National Referral Centre:

0800 432 0559
• Patient Name, DOB & Hospital Number
• GP Name/Address
• Date & time of death
• Provisional cause of death
• Brief medical history (any current Infection/trauma/sepsis?)
• Any steroid use? Confusion/dementia? Cancers/Leukaemia?
• Approximate height & weight
• Time the deceased taken to mortuary
• Have any blood samples been taken from the deceased?
How are we doing now?

Tissue Donors from Betsi Cadwaladr

- April 08 - March 09
- April 09 - March 10
- April 10 - March 11
- April 11 - March 12

Number

[Chart showing tissue donors from Betsi Cadwaladr]
The future......

- Possible Alliance Site for ITU & ED
- Training
- Increase referral of potential tissue donors to NHSBT