JRF ORTHO

CARTILAGE REPLACEMENT: WHY IT'S AN OPTION FOR YOU

Biologic Joint Repair. During your surgery you will be receiving donated human tissue. The ability to transplant tissue is truly a wonderful medical advance. It allows your joint function to be restored with tissue similar to what was originally there. If this tissue had not been available, your doctor would have had fewer treatment choices for you.

Improved quality of life. Many Americans only have the option of joint replacement with metal and plastic materials, which may reduce mobility and ability to do the activities and sports you love. However, your surgeon has determined that you may be best treated with donated tissue. This may restore your joint function in a natural or biologic way improving the quality of life you are used to.

Utilize donated tissue. Donation is the first step of the process of creating tissue transplants for you and others. **Because of the gift of donation, your quality of life may be restored.** Very much like a live organ transplant, the type of donated tissue your surgeon has selected for you has to be transplanted in a limited time frame. When a graft match is found for you**, if you delay or cancel your surgery**, you are cheating yourself and potentially someone else from improving his or her quality of life as **the donated tissue may go unused.** *The tissue you are about to receive was given by a person, and/or their family, who chose to help you through tissue donation.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. **What are the chances that my body will reject the donated tissue? Do I need to take medication to prevent rejection?**
   Unlike live organ transplants (heart, lung, liver, kidney), tissue rejection is not a concern with bone and cartilage transplantation; therefore, you will not need to take anti-rejection medication.
2. **How safe is it? Can I catch a disease?**
   There are extremely strict criteria for tissue donation including a thorough review of the donor's medical records and social history to maximize the tissue quality and minimize risk to recipients. Once the donor background check has been approved, the tissues are tested for diseases including HIV (AIDS), hepatitis, etc. Also, all tissues are tested for bacterial and microbial contamination and the graft you receive has been cleared for transplantation by a Medical Director. This testing process takes 2 weeks to complete. JRF Ortho has never had an incident of disease transmission.
3. **How soon can I have the surgery?**
   The wait times for surgery can be as short as a month to several months. Please be both patient and ready to have surgery on short notice.

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