

[pluslife.org.au](http://pluslife.org.au)

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INFORMATION FOR  
HIP REPLACEMENT RECIPIENTS:

## All you need to know about femoral head bone donation

*PlusLife is a not-for-profit organisation*



PERTH BONE &  
TISSUE BANK INC.

Enhancing lives  
because of you.

Let's talk about donation **1800 801 997**

# All you need to know about femoral head bone donation

**Donated bone and tissue can be life changing for both donors and recipients. Bone graft procedures are very common, second only in number to blood transfusions. The demand for human bone graft materials continues to grow rapidly and the impact is both wide-ranging and vital. With your donation, someone stands a chance at living a better life.**

## WHAT IS PLUSLIFE?

PlusLife is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for the collection, screening, storage and distribution of donated human bone and tissue grafts for transplant purposes.

Surgery which requires bone graft is common and the demand for graft material continues to grow. Your donation can assist people who need surgical procedures such as spinal surgery for adolescents, hip and knee revisions, bone tumours and repair of bone defects.



## WHAT IS FEMORAL HEAD DONATION?

The femoral head is the ball part of the hip joint which is routinely removed and discarded during hip replacement surgery. With your consent, this bone can be donated to PlusLife and used for transplant.

Bone donation is voluntary and does not alter in any

way how your surgery is performed. There is no age limit and no cost incurred by you.

## REASONS WHY YOU CANNOT DONATE:

Unfortunately you cannot donate if you have:

- Past or present cancer such as breast or prostate cancer
- Past or present skin cancers such as Squamous Cell Carcinoma and Melanoma

- Lived or frequently visited the United Kingdom for 6 months or more between 1980 and 1996 (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease)
- Autoimmune disorders such as Psoriasis, Type 1 Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus or Rheumatoid Arthritis (Osteoarthritis is accepted)
- Paget's disease or Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Received an organ transplant or human growth hormone
- Neurological disorders such as Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Dementia and Alzheimers
- Sexually transmitted disease within the last 2 years (which may include Genital Herpes, Genital Warts, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea or Syphilis)
- Hepatitis B or C, HIV (AIDS)

## HOW CAN I BECOME A BONE DONOR?

In most cases your Surgeon or Hospital will refer you to our Donor Liaison personnel or alternatively, you may refer yourself. They'll then contact you to explain the process and assist you in completing the required documentation.

You will be required to complete a femoral head donation consent form questionnaire (similar to that required for blood donation). This form is available at your Surgeon's rooms, hospital pre-admission clinic or from PlusLife direct. Once you have completed the questionnaire, you must sign and then mail it to PlusLife prior to your surgery.

It is a legal requirement that we have your permission to collect your bone and conduct the required laboratory tests. On receipt of your consent form questionnaire, Donor Liaison personnel will conduct a telephone interview to review your responses and record your consent at the completion of the interview. An interpreter service is available on request where required.

## WHAT QUESTIONS WILL I BE ASKED ON THE CONSENT FORM QUESTIONNAIRE?

All questions on the consent form relate to your medical and social history. These questions are necessary to enable us to obtain a full history from you. This assists in reducing the risk of disease transmission to patients who require grafts.

Occasionally we may need to access your medical records to obtain further health history or conduct additional laboratory tests such as malarial screening.

## WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT DONATING?

You may withdraw your consent at any time up until the bone is transplanted. If you change your mind or have any concerns about the donation process, simply notify Donor Liaison. No questions will be asked.

## WHAT TESTING IS REQUIRED?

If you agree to donate your femoral head, blood and bone samples will be collected during your surgery and tested in the laboratory.

Your blood is tested for a range of diseases including Hepatitis B & C, HIV (AIDS) and Syphilis.

Microbiology and histopathology testing is conducted on the bone samples.

Your bone will be sent to PlusLife from the operating theatre and is then quarantined for 7 months until a follow up blood test is conducted. This 7 month follow up blood test is performed at your convenience – either at your local Western Diagnostics or Pathwest service or a pathology service visit to your home or workplace. Country residents may visit their Doctor, local hospital or pathology service.

**Your bone can be released for transplant only after the results of your follow up blood test are known.**

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