

# Organ Transplantation: An Overview

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## EDITORIAL

Organ transplantation is a surgical procedure that involves removing an organ from one body and transplanting it into the body of the recipient to replace a damaged or absent organ. Organs may be moved from a donor site to another location, or the donor and recipient may be in the same place. Autografts are transplanted organs and/or tissues from the same person's body.

Allografts are transplants conducted recently between two individuals of the same species. Allografts may come from either a living or a deceased donor. The heart, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas, intestine, thymus, and uterus are among the organs that have been successfully transplanted. Bones, tendons (both referred to as musculoskeletal grafts), corneae, skin, heart valves, nerves, and veins are examples of tissues. The kidneys are the most frequently transplanted organs in the world, followed by the liver and then the heart. The most frequently transplanted tissues are corneas and musculoskeletal grafts, which outnumber organ transplants by a factor of ten. Organ donors may be alive, dead from a stroke, or dead from circulatory death. Tissue may be retrieved from donors who have died of circulatory or brain death - up to 24

hours after their heart has stopped beating. Most tissues (except corneas) can be preserved and stored for up to five years, allowing them to be "banked," unlike organs. Transplantation poses a range of bioethical concerns, such as the concept of death, when and how permission for an organ transplant should be granted, and payment for transplanted organs. Other ethical concerns include transplantation tourism (medical tourism) and the socioeconomic context in which organ procurement or transplantation can take place. Organ trafficking is a particular concern. There's also the matter of not giving patients false hope. One of the most difficult and complicated fields of clinical medicine is transplantation medicine. The issues of transplant rejection, in which the body has an immune reaction to the transplanted organ, which can lead to transplant failure and the need to extract the organ from the recipient right away, are some of the main areas for medical management. Transplant rejection can be minimized where possible by using serotyping to assess the best donor-recipient match and using immunosuppressive drugs. Autografts are the transplantation of tissue from one individual to another. This is often achieved with excess tissue, tissue that can regenerate, or tissues that are more urgently required elsewhere (examples include skin grafts, vein extraction for CABG, etc.).

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**Received:** April 05, 2021, **Accepted:** April 12, 2021, **Published:** March 19, 2021

**Citation:** Pradhan E (2021) Organ Transplantation: An Overview. J Biomed Eng & Med Dev. 6:156.

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