

Your stay

Tissue Use Information: the use of tissues taken during an operation or investigation

What do we mean by tissue?

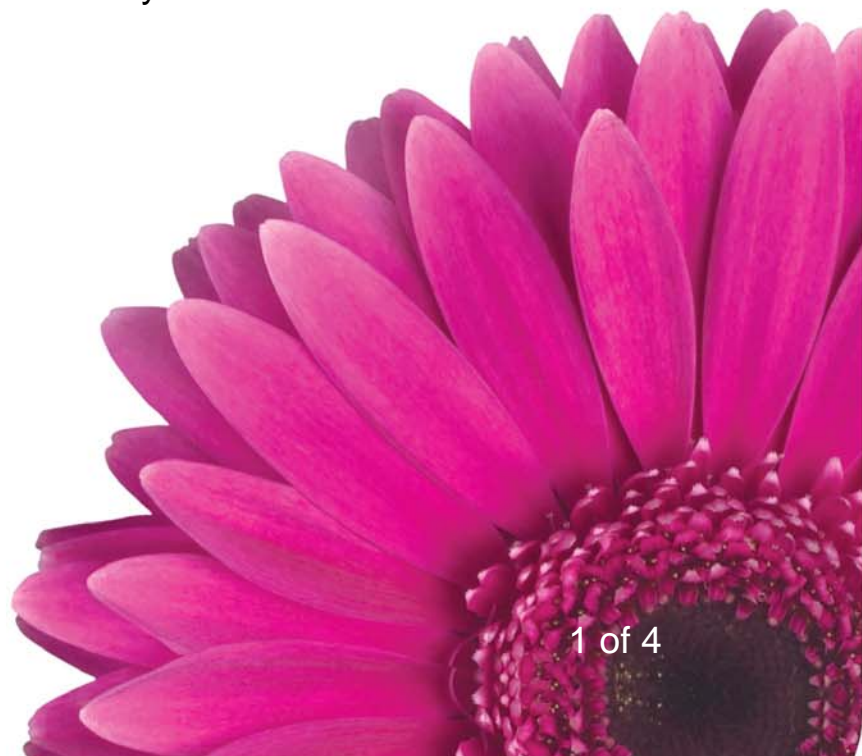
The human body is made up of collections of cells that make up tissues. The tissue may form organs such as the liver, appendix or kidney. Other tissues do not form organs, for example teeth, bone and blood.

Why is your tissue important to us?

Doctors and scientists need human tissue to teach future doctors and nurses, and to find out about diseases. By studying human tissue, doctors and scientists can understand how a disease or problem starts and progresses. They may find different ways of diagnosing and treating a disease or develop a new treatment. Tissue for research will only be taken with your consent.

How does this affect me?

If tissue is taken from you during the course of your treatment or investigation there may be remaining tissue that can be used for teaching and research. The Human Tissue Act recognises the important contribution that patients can make to this process. It also ensures that tissue is used in a safe and ethical manner. Your decision to consent or refuse medical research will not make any difference to the standard of medical care you will receive.



Who will collect my tissue?

In the majority of cases the tissue will be collected by a doctor, or in some cases a nurse or a phlebotomist (for blood). It will be sent to the Pathology Department where it will be examined by a trained Pathologist or Scientist.

What happens after the tissue is collected?

The tissue used for diagnosis is stored in the Pathology Department. Tissue may only be used for research after tissue for diagnosis has been obtained. Residual fluids, and occasionally tissues (like scar tissue) that are not kept by the Human Tissue Resource Centre will be disposed of in a lawful manner.

What is the Human Tissue Resource Centre?

The Human Tissue Resource Centre is linked to the Pathology Department. It has been established to store and supply tissue for teaching, audit, quality control and research. This is done in a legal, ethical and safe manner.

Who will have access to human tissue?

In the first place, the tissue will be used by doctors and scientists working in this NHS Trust and Medical School.

The Human Tissue Resource Centre may supply some of the donated tissue to other academic institutions or commercial businesses. The Human Tissue Resource Centre may charge outside companies for this service. The charge covers: costs of collection, preparation and dispatch of tissue samples. The Human Tissue Resource Centre does not make a profit from this activity. All research must undergo peer review and approval by a Research Ethics Committee.

What may my tissue be used for?

In addition to the usual work of diagnosis, teaching and auditing, your tissue may also be used for research into medical science, dental science, diseases and treatments or to help produce better and safer drugs.

In some cases, it may be appropriate for genetic tests to be carried out to determine whether genetic alterations are present in the cells.

Your tissue will not be used for research that involves reproductive cloning or be tested for inherited diseases without your express consent.

What happens with the research?

Research studies may take several years to complete. The results may be published in scientific journals and magazines and presented at conferences. All information will be anonymised. It will not be possible for you to be identified as an individual in any publication or presentation.

It will not be possible for you to make a claim on any discoveries or profits made as a result of research trials involving samples of your tissue.

What if I do not want my tissue used for research or certain types of research?

If you do not want your tissue to be used for any medical research or just certain types of research, it is important that you make this clear to the doctor/nurse and document your wishes in the appropriate section on the consent form for your procedure. The doctor/nurse will show you where to write.

Your treatment will not be affected if you do not want any tissue used for research.

If you would like to find out more:

You can get more information on the internet at

www.bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk/research

Or you can phone the Human Tissue Resource Centre on 020 7601 7521.

Thank you for reading this information.

Note: The Human Tissue Resource Centre is a joint initiative for Barts and The London NHS Trust and Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, licensed by the Human Tissue Authority as a statutory requirement of the Human Tissue Act 2004. The Human Tissue Resource Centre is managed by a team of senior hospital staff and patient representatives.

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