

Heart Retrieval on behalf of NHSBT Tissue Services for Valves from a Deceased Donor

Introduction

This document aims to outline the procedure to be followed in the removal of a heart from a deceased donor where the donation is performed during a multi-organ donation.

Important

If at any time the person undertaking the donation receives a sharps injury which results in bleeding and there is a risk that the heart itself has become contaminated by the retrieval team blood it is Tissue Services policy not to use this tissue and the heart must be returned to the chest cavity. The equipment used for the donation must be sterile and disposable or sterilised through an accredited Sterilisation Unit. All equipment used must be fully traceable to the donation procedure and recorded in accordance with the EU Directive for Cells and Tissues.

Heart Dissection

It is important that vessels are left as long as practically possible during the removal of the tissue.

Technical requirements:

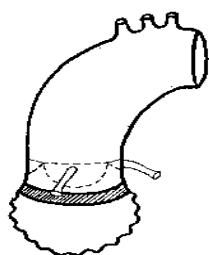
Suture at the cannulation site will be retained.

Optimal length (both valves):

Cut the aorta and pulmonary trunk as long as practically possible, including bifurcation and aortic arch. See diagrams below:

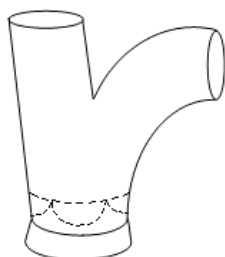
Aorta:

The ascending aorta and aortic arch, cut distal to the left subclavian artery.



Pulmonary:

The pulmonary trunk, plus 5cm of the left and right pulmonary arteries.



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Labelling / Documentation

- The outer surface of the container must be labelled with the following information:
 - Hospital location
 - Date / Time heart removed
 - Donor identification to include patients name along with 3 points of ID (e.g.ODT Number, Date of Birth, Hospital Number)
 - Name and Signature of Specialist Nurse present during donation
- The heart must be labelled with donor name and donor identification x 3 and then be placed in the transport box with ice and secured.
- A copy of the heart valve bank request form and blood group must accompany the heart tissue to Tissue Services with a copy of the consent faxed to the NHSBT National Referral Centre
- 2 x blood samples are required which must also be labelled with donor name and donor identification x 3

Sending the Heart, Blood Sample and Documentation to Tissue Services

Tissue Services will take full responsibility for arranging the collection of the heart and blood sample and the transportation to Tissue Services Liverpool.

To arrange collection of the heart, please contact: **0151 268 7078**