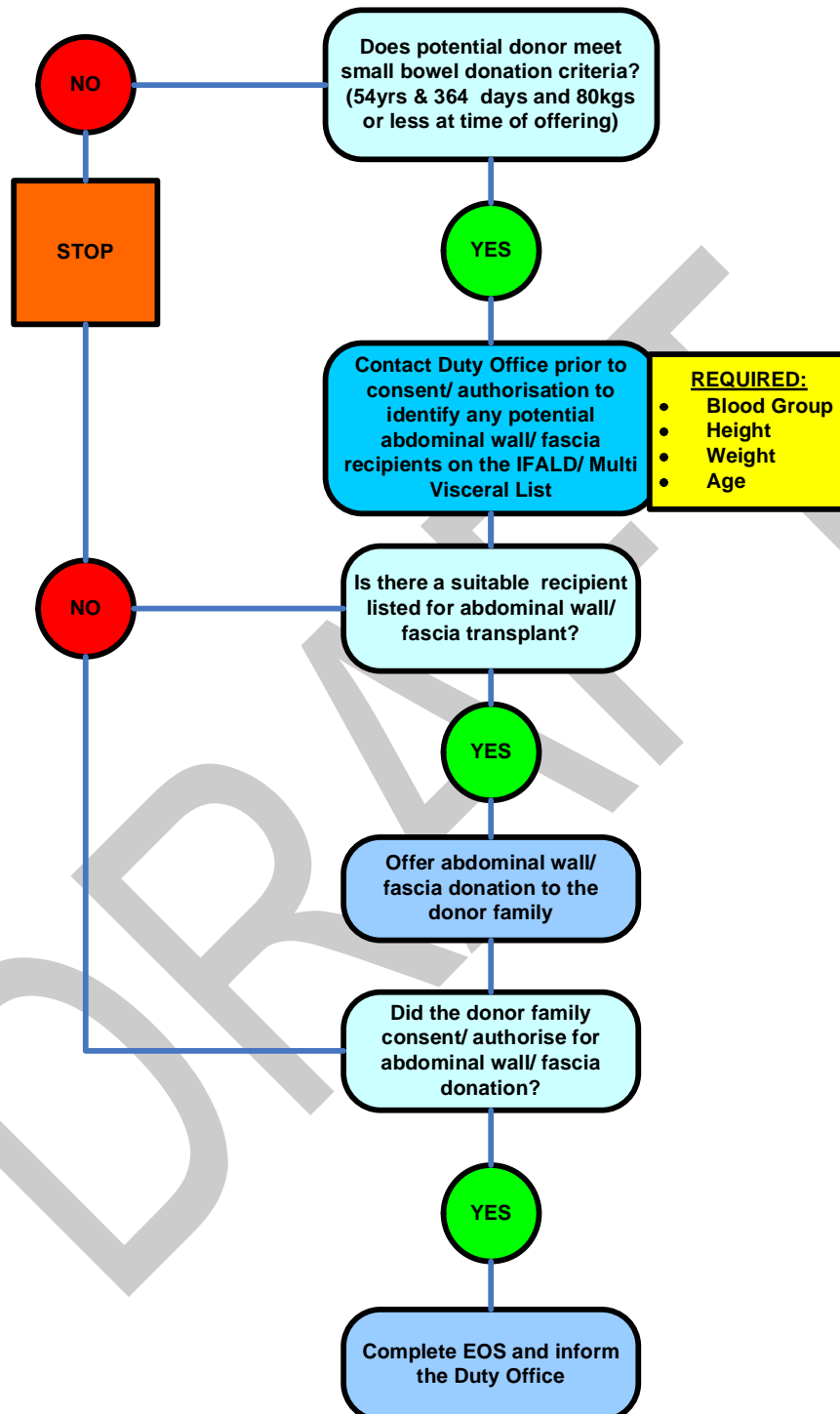


Abdominal Wall / Fascia Transplantation



ABDOMINAL WALL/ FASCIA TRANSPLANTATION INFORMATION FOR SN-ODs

(Template Version 01/11/13)

Abdominal Wall / Fascia Transplantation

Q Which hospitals will be in-scope for this?

A All hospitals where organ donation occurs

Q Are there any contraindications?

A Donors must be within the current criteria for small bowel donation. Donors with extensive surgical scars or damage to the abdominal wall/ fascia that would complicate retrieval or their function after transplantation.

Q What is removed for abdominal wall transplantation?

A Abdominal wall transplantation is a type of vascularised composite allograft (VCA) that involves the procurement and transplantation of the skin, including the umbilicus (tummy button), subcutaneous tissue, fascia, muscle and the peritoneal lining of the anterior abdominal wall. This VCA is based on the inferior epigastric arteries and veins.

Q What does the procedure involve?

A An inverted 'U' shape incision or an elliptical incision is made in the donor abdominal wall. The inverted 'U' takes the incision from a point lateral to the pubic tubercle, upwards along the lateral margin of the rectus muscle to the tip of the 9th rib, across to the midline. This incision is extended through the full thickness of the abdominal wall, which is then reflected downwards, so that it remains vascularised by the inferior epigastric vessels.

After all the abdominal organs are retrieved, the abdominal wall is detached from the body with sharp dissection along the line of the pubic symphysis to connect the two incisions. The IEs on both sides are then flushed with cold UW solution and the flap is transported in cold slush of UW taking care not to freeze the graft.

Q What will the donor's appearance be post abdominal wall/ fascia donation?

A By mobilising the skin on both sides to the level of the posterior axillary line, it is possible to close the abdominal cavity leaving a midline scar. The donor's abdomen will appear much smaller as the abdominal organs may also have been removed. If abdominal wall is removed there will be no umbilicus.

Q What does abdominal fascia retrieval involve?

A Retrieval of the abdominal fascia is a relatively simple undertaking. It does not require modification of the normal incisions used for organ donation and does not remove any of the donors's skin. As a result at the end of the donation procedure closure of the abdomen is the same as usual.

Q Who will undertake the retrieval?

A Retrieval will be undertaken by a retrieval surgeon from Oxford or Cambridge who is skilled and experienced in the procedure.

Q Do I need to identifying specific donor characteristics, skin tone etc... that need to be matched with the recipients?

A No the donors skin tone does not need to match. If there are large tattoos or piercings this may impact on donation. With abdominal fascia this isn't a consideration as no skin is involved.

Q What is the typical type of recipient?

A The abdominal wall/ fascia will be donated with the intestine, for patients who have lost a significant amount of their intestine +/- prolonged intra-abdominal sepsis (often managed by laparostomy), resulting in a greatly reduced/obliterated abdominal compartment. This leads to difficulties closing the abdominal wall after intestinal transplantation: a variety of techniques have been used, all of which are associated with a high complication rate. Transplantation of the abdominal wall/ fascia provides a much better functional and cosmetic result than the alternatives (biological mesh, skin grafts etc).

Q Do the recipients have any specific consenting procedures?

A Patients will be consented with full information (as per any other transplant). They will be counselled that the skin tone may not be an exact match that they may have donor hair present on the abdominal wall, and that failure of the abdominal wall transplant may occur for technical (thrombosis) or immunological reasons may occur. Patients will be seen by a transplant psychologist prior to consenting and listing

Q How many abdominal wall/ fascia transplants are performed each year?

A Approximately 6-8 per year but this figure is likely to rise.