

Important questions to ask before donating your tissue

- What is the specific research purpose of the donated tissue?
- Will my donated tissue be used for any purpose other than research?
- Will my donated tissue be used in research involving human-animal combinations?
- Will you be collecting my personal information for future research? How will you ensure my data are protected?
- Will my donated tissue be used in a personally identifiable manner?
- Will I be contacted if the tissue bank finds something important about my health?
- Will I be contacted before you use my tissue for future research?
- Will I be contacted if there is any new information that may affect my willingness to continue participation?
- Are there any risks or discomforts?
- Is the tissue donation voluntary and what will happen if I do not want to participate?
- Will there be any compensation if an injury occurs as a result of the tissue donation procedures?
- Are there any added costs to me?
- Will the tissue be exported out of Singapore?



Office of Human Research Protection Programme Tissue Donor's Brochure

What You Need to Know
About Tissue Donation

11 Things To Know About Tissue Donation

1. What is human tissue?



Human tissue refers to any human biological material. Examples of human tissue include blood, organs or parts of organs.

2. Why is human tissue needed for research?



The use of human tissue in research helps researchers to better understand human diseases. This would allow them to explore different ways to detect, prevent and treat diseases.

3. When is human tissue collected for research?



Researchers may:

- Use left-over blood samples that were collected as part of your routine laboratory tests.
- Use organs or parts of organs that were removed during standard care surgery.
- Ask you to donate human tissue specifically for research purposes only.

4. Will I be informed if researchers would like to use my tissue for research?



Yes, the researchers will seek your permission by asking you to sign a consent form. Refer to the back of this brochure for questions to ask before you agree to donate your tissue.

5. Can I withdraw my consent to the tissue donation?



Yes, you may withdraw your consent at any time. However, the donated tissue will not be returned to you. Instead, you may inform the researcher to discard any remaining tissue as long as they are still personally identifiable.

6. Will being a donor affect the care I receive in the hospital?



Tissue donation is optional and voluntary. Choosing not to take part does not affect your medical care or cause you to lose medical benefits.

7. Will the tissue be collected and used legally and ethically?



All human tissue donations in NHG institutions are governed by the NHG Tissue Compliance Committee to ensure they are conducted according to the law and in a manner that safeguards the rights, safety, and well-being of donors.

8. Will my genetic material be extracted from donated tissue and used for genetics studies?



Your genetic material will only be extracted if it was clearly specified in the consent form that genetics research will be performed.

9. Will the results of the research performed on my tissue be shared with me?



The researchers will not share the results of tests performed on your tissue as they are experimental in nature. However, if they find medically important information that could affect your health, you will be contacted if you have given them permission to do so.

10. Where will my donated tissue and personal data be stored? Is it secure?



Your donated tissue and data will be kept in locked storage within the tissue bank. Your name and any other personal identifiers on the tissue and data will be replaced by a code so that they are not directly identifiable. A master list will be created to link the code to your personal identifiers and only the researcher and selected staff in the tissue bank will have access to this master list.

11. Will I be paid for donating my tissue?



No, you will not be paid for donating tissue. Tissue donations are deemed to be gifted from you to the Tissue Bank and researcher.