



Science Driven. Patient Focused.

# Understanding Allografts:

What they are and  
the role they'll play  
in your surgery

We save and heal lives  
by honoring the donated  
gifts, serving patients and  
advancing science.



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# You have a surgery coming up...

## and your doctor will be using an allograft in your procedure. What is an allograft?

*An allograft is a bone, ligament, cartilage, tendon or section of skin that is transplanted from one person to another. It is also referred to as "donated tissue."*

Every year in the United States, doctors use more than a million allografts to help...

- Athletic individuals who need knee reconstruction
- People suffering from back pain
- Cancer patients who need tumor surgery
- Women undergoing post-mastectomy breast reconstruction

These are just a few examples. Surgeons have used allografts successfully—in all kinds of procedures—for decades. Allografts have improved millions of people's lives. Your doctor thinks an allograft is a good choice for you, too.

## Where do allografts come from?

Allografts come from deceased donors—people who make the selfless decision to donate the gift of life and healing. Many times, just one donor's gift can help more than 75 people.

Donating tissue is a wonderful thing for someone to do. But it's also important for you to know that not every donor's tissues are accepted. The bones, cartilage, tendons, skin and ligaments they donate need to be healthy. So, every donor is carefully screened by medical professionals. If the donor's tissue is suitable, it is cleaned, processed and tested for sterility before it is sent to your doctor.

## Can I write to my donor's family?

You can write an anonymous letter of thanks to your donor's family through our **Linking Lives Through Letters Program**. Donor families appreciate a card or letter from recipients, as it acknowledges their donation and validates their decision to donate to help others in need. You can learn more about the program by contacting us at [linkinglives@mtf.org](mailto:linkinglives@mtf.org) or [www.mtfbionics.org/linkinglives](http://www.mtfbionics.org/linkinglives).

## Can my doctor use my own tissue for my surgery?

Yes, but many doctors prefer to use donated tissue (allografts). When a doctor uses your own tissue (called an autograft), it has to come from another part of your body, which usually means a second surgical site and possibly more pain and recovery time.

Allografts are available, safe, and ready to use. There's no need for a second surgery, so your recovery and healing will be easier.

Your allograft will come from MTF Biologics—the largest tissue bank in the world. MTF Biologics is a non-profit organization and is highly respected in the medical community. Your doctor chose MTF Biologics because of our strong reputation and the quality and safety of our allografts.

## Are allografts safe?

Yes. Since 1987, MTF Biologics has provided over 8.6 million allografts from more than 132,000 donors. MTF Biologics has an exceptional safety record because we are directed by surgeons from world-renowned hospitals, universities and medical institutions. These surgeons set MTF Biologics' high standards and oversee which donors are accepted.

## Want to know more?

If you have more questions about allografts, ask your doctor, visit MTF Biologics' website at [www.mtfbionics.org](http://www.mtfbionics.org) or call **1.800.433.6576**.