



Facial Transplant – FACT SHEET

- Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) performed the first partial face transplant in New England, the second in the United States and the seventh in the world on April 9, 2009.
- The BWH surgical team, made up of approximately 35, is led by Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, a surgeon in the Division of Plastic Surgery.
- The first partial face transplant was performed in France, in November 2005 by a team led by Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard, who visited the BWH facial transplant team in March 2008 when BWH and the New England Organ Bank announced intentions to perform a partial face transplant when a suitable donor and recipient match was made based on gender, race, approximate age and blood type. Other facial transplants have been performed in France, China and the United States.
- In the BWH partial face transplant, the mid-face area including the nasal structure, the nose, hard palette of the mouth, upper lip, facial skin, muscles of facial animation and the nerves that power them and provide sensation are removed from the donor and grafted to the recipient.
- The appearance of the donor will not be replicated in the recipient. The underlying facial bones and muscle of the recipient will change the shape of the facial tissue graft from the donor and will largely determine its shape and final appearance.
- For the protection of patient privacy, both the donor and recipient patients and families wish to remain anonymous.
- Consent for the donation of the tissue graft from the face was obtained by New England Organ Bank staff after conversations with the donor family. Signing up as an organ and tissue donor on a driver's license is not accepted as consent for face donation; family consent is required.

Transplant History at BWH

Today, BWH is recognized as one of the world's leaders in transplantation. In 1954, a BWH team led by Dr. Joseph Murray performed the first successful human organ donor transplant, a kidney, from one brother to another. In recognition of this achievement, Dr. Murray received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1990.

- BWH performed the first triple organ transplant in the United States in 1995.
- The first quintuple lung transplant in the United States was performed at BWH in 2004.

- The first heart transplant in New England was performed at BWH in 1984; in the past 25 years, BWH has performed more than 560 successful transplants in one of the busiest cardiac transplantation and circulatory assist programs in New England, with patients' survival exceeding national averages.
- The first heart-lung transplant in Massachusetts was done at BWH in 1992.
- In 2008, BWH performed 30 lung transplants, the most the hospital has done in one year, putting BWH among the top hospitals in the country for volume. The lung transplant program, which began at BWH in 1990, performs 80 percent of the region's adult lung transplants.
- In 2006, BWH performed for the first time in its history 100 kidney transplants in one year and in 2008, more than 30 lung transplants were performed, putting BWH among the top hospitals in the country for volume.