



BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Carmen Blandin Tarleton

Carmen Blandin Tarleton is a 44-year-old registered nurse and mother of two from Thetford, Vermont. On June 10, 2007, Carmen was brutally attacked by her estranged husband, beat with a baseball bat and doused with industrial strength lye. More than 80 percent of her body was burned.

Carmen was airlifted to Brigham and Women's Hospital where she was put into a medically-induced coma. She underwent 38 surgeries over a three month period. Over the next five years, Carmen had 17 additional surgeries including some to restore her sight. Despite this, she was left severely disfigured and legally blind. On December 5, 2011, after a rigorous screening process, she was approved for a face transplant and the New England Organ Bank began searching for a donor.

In Carmen's case, identifying a donor took longer than for previous face transplant recipients because of her immunological complexity. This complexity is a result of the antibodies in her immune system that have built-up from previous blood transfusions and surgeries.

In February 2013, a donor was identified and Carmen received a full face transplant at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Carmen recently published her first book titled, 'Overcome: Burned, Blinded and Blessed'.

A charitable fund has been set up to help with Carmen with her expenses. To learn more, visit:
<http://drphilfoundation.org/carmen>

For more information, including downloadable video, photos and animation of the surgery, please visit <https://www.brighamandwomens.org/facetransplantcarmen>

Face Transplant Donation

Consent for the donation of the tissue graft from the face was obtained by New England Organ Bank staff members after conversations with the donor family. Registering as an organ and tissue donor on a driver's license is not accepted as consent for face donation. Family consent is required. To protect the identity of the donor and the donor family, the exact date of the surgery will not be disclosed.

Transplantation Milestones at Brigham and Women's Hospital

- 1954 – BWH surgeons perform the world's first successful human organ donor transplant, a kidney, from one brother to another.
- 1984 – BWH Surgeons perform the first heart transplant in New England.
- 2009 – A team lead by Dr. Bohdan Pomahac performs a partial face transplant on James Maki.
- 2011 – A team lead by Dr. Bohdan Pomahac performs the first full face transplant in the country on Dallas Weins. This is followed by the country's second and third full face transplants months later.
- 2011 – A team led by Dr. Bohdan Pomahac performs the first two double hand transplants in New England.

Please contact Lori Schroth, Tom Langford or Jessica Maki in the office of Brigham and Women's Communication & Public Affairs (617) 534-1600 with any questions.