



April 26, 2011

Face Transplant – FACT SHEET

For photos, video and other materials visit:

www.brighamandwomens.org/facetransplanthunter

- In April 2011, less than one month after the hospital performed the first full face transplant in the country, the Brigham and Women's face transplant team, led by Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, performs the hospital's second full face transplant on patient Mitch Hunter of Indiana. It is the third face transplant procedure done at BWH. The procedure took approximately 14 hours and involved a team of doctors, nurses, anesthesiologists, residents and many others across multiple disciplines.
- The date of the procedure will not be released to ensure the privacy of the donor.
- Mitch Hunter suffered a severe shock from a high voltage electrical wire following a car accident in 2001. According to the Hunter family, Mitch enlisted in the military in January 1999 and graduated basic training in Ft. Sill Oklahoma in April 1999. He was stationed in Ft. Bragg North Carolina and released in February 2001 with an honorable discharge after the accident.
- In March 2011, BWH performed the first full face transplant in the U.S., and the second facial transplant at BWH. Patient Dallas Wien's recovery is going according to plan.
- April, 2009, the BWH face transplant team, led by Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, a surgeon in the Division of Plastic Surgery and director of the Burn Unit perform the first partial face transplant procedure in hospital's history on patient Jim Maki.
- The donor patient and family wish to remain anonymous.
- The donor/recipient match was made based on gender, race, approximate age and blood type.
- The appearance of the donor is not likely to 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.
- The area transplanted includes: the forehead, the nasal structure, the nose, lips, 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.
- 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.

- Registering 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.

The first heart transplant in New England was performed at BWH in 1984; this year, the 600th heart transplant was successfully performed at the hospital.

The first heart-lung transplant in Massachusetts was done at BWH in 1992

BWH also performed the first triple organ transplant and the first quintuple lung transplant in the United States in 1995 and 2004 respectively.

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.