

A Special Gift This Spring

All donated tissue is quarantined for a period of time, awaiting test results, which ensures the quality and safety of all tissue prior release for donation. On occasion, particularly with paediatric heart valves, there is an urgent and potentially life saving request for tissue when there is no released tissue available in our inventory. This happened just recently when we received a request from a cardiovascular surgeon at the IWK, our local children's hospital. Dr. Camille Hancock-Friesen was requesting a very tiny heart valve needed for a newborn baby.

These very small valves are extremely rare not only in our region but across the country. Fortunately, we had the particular size valve that was required for the baby. However, it was still in quarantine and had not been released for transplant.

We assured the surgeon that we would do everything we could to gather any outstanding test results and prepare the valve for an Exceptional Distribution.

Although we were not able to obtain all of the required information within an acceptable time frame it was decided by the patient's physician and the family that the life saving benefit to the patient far outweighed any risk and potential harm to the patient from the outstanding test results.

The Exceptional Distribution was facilitated and the valve was successfully transplanted. This little baby is doing well and the Regional Tissue Bank staffs have been greatly moved by her communications to us on behalf of the family. We are so grateful that we were able to help save the life of this precious baby.

We cannot forget about the real heroes in this case. The real heroes are the donor and their family members who chose to donate during a very difficult time of loss and grieving. Out of their sorrow and pain came life for this child and for that, we are eternally grateful.

*Cynthia Johnston BSC, CTBS
Quality Leader, Regional Tissue Bank*

New Products Available

In response to the changing needs of surgeons and patients, the RTB now produces 10 and 20 cc sizes of cancellous and 5 and 15cc sizes of bone chips cancellous.

Historically all cutting was performed using hand held saws. We are pleased to announce that in May 2012 the RTB has begun using a customized Band Saw for allograft production. Many thanks to everyone who help make this improvement to our processing a reality.

*Charline Covin
Processing Leader*

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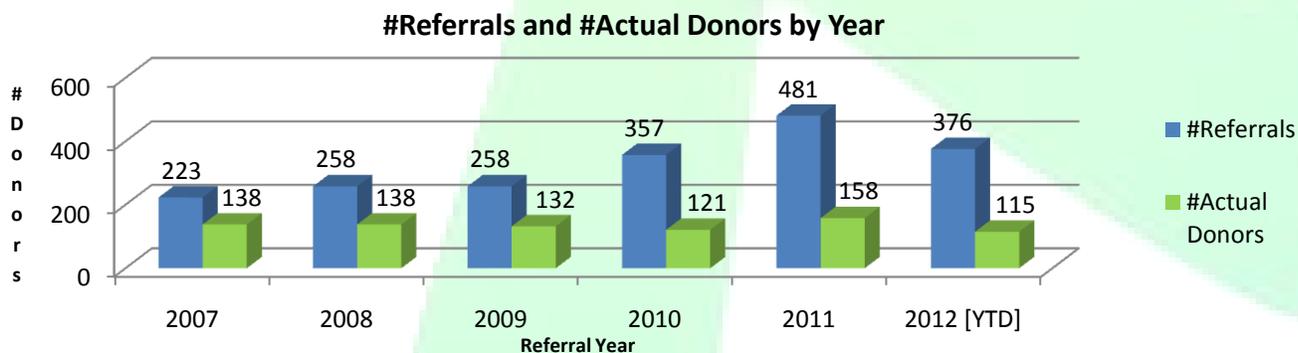
Donation activity here in Nova Scotia and National Organ and Tissue and National Organ and Tissue Week (NOTDAW)

During the week of NOTDAW there were many activities across Canada. We here at the RTB enjoyed taking a time to promote Donation by setting up booths in local hospital lobby's and by making rounds to various hospital units within our home facility.

As part of awareness week we hope to remind the front-line Health Care professionals about donation and that we are here to answer any questions they may have at anytime.



Referral and Actual Donor Rates



Upcoming Events

AATB 36th Annual Meeting, Keystone, CO September 9, 2012
Transplant Atlantic Conference, Halifax, NS October 10-12, 2012

Regional Tissue Bank
5788 University Avenue, Halifax, NS. B3H 1V8
1-800-314-6515
<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/regional-tissue-bank>



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