



About Tissue Donation for Cancer Research

Donating your tissue (tumor, blood, cells) for research is a choice—and it's a decision that only you can make. When you think this over, consider a few important points.

- Researchers need this tissue in order to better perform their study of cancer: what causes cancer, how to diagnose it and how to treat it.
- It is important that researchers study both normal and cancerous tissue, so that we can learn more about differences between them—what went wrong and caused the cancer, what's right and protects people from cancer.
- Progress in cancer research and science depends on contributions from everyone, not just scientists, not just donations of money.
- This is how you can play an important role in helping future cancer patients.

When might my doctor ask me if I want to donate tissue?

- If you have a biopsy, (removal of tissue from the body to figure out if you have cancer and what type it is) you may be asked to donate some of the tissue left over after your diagnosis is made.
- You may be asked have more biopsies, over a period of time after your diagnosis.

It is important to ask questions as you think about donating tissue. Here are some things to think about when you make your decision:

- You have the right to ask if the biopsies will be painful and how the pain will be managed. You are your own best advocate.
- You have the right to ask if the tissue is being used for specific research on your disease or if it will be stored for use in the future.

You can decide yes or no, and how it may be used. There are some research studies that you can take part in only if you donate tissue. Be informed and make the best decision for you.

It is important to ask questions about your privacy as you think about donating tissue.

Cancer research is more likely to benefit others in the future than to benefit you. Contributing tissue is an act of generosity that will help those with your disease in years to come. That person might be you but it could be your grandchildren. Donating your tissue for research is a choice—and it's a decision that only you can make. Make the best decision for you.

Thank you for your donation