

DGFG Annual report 2022

Dear partners and interested parties,

We were able to conclude our anniversary year 2022 with another increase in the number of donations: For the first time, more than 3,000 people donated tissue. I am particularly pleased that our network continues to grow after 15 years by gaining committed partners in donation programmes and tissue banking as well as new staff at the DGFG. 55 donation coordinators processed more than 45,000 donor notifications and conducted 8,001 next-of-kin interviews. 42.4 percent of all donors and relatives gave a consent to donate tissue. Thus, in 2022, with the help of 3,100 tissue donations, we were able to provide a total of 7,168 patients with a tissue transplant from our network. In 2022, we also started the donation programme for bones, tendons and ligaments and were able to realize 30 of these donations by the end of the year.



Download the interactive DGFG Annual Report 2022 (full version in German only)!

Martin Börgel, Managing Director

Tissue donation in numbers

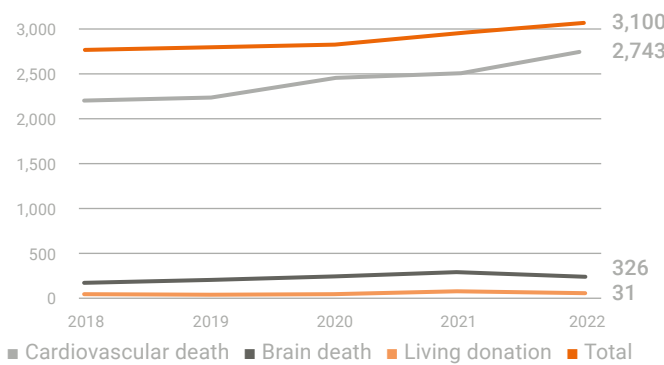
3,100 people donated their tissue in 2022.

This corresponds to **6,679** donated tissue preparations.

7,168 tissue grafts were allocated in 2022.

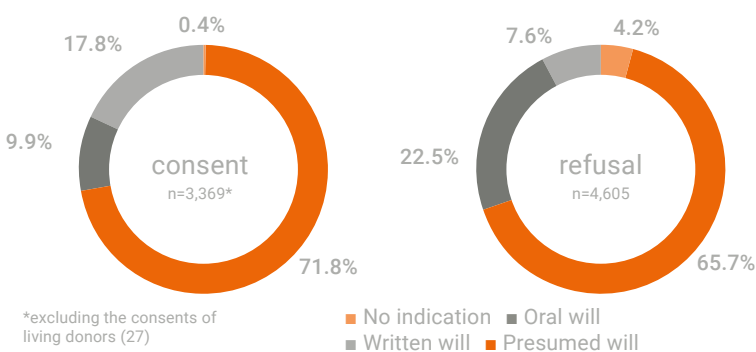
42.4 % consented to tissue donation in 2022.

Number of tissue donors by type of donation 2018–2022



In 2022, the DGFG was able to realize 3,100 tissue donations. 88.4 percent of donors were cardiovascular decedents. The number of living donors (placenta and heart valves) decreased again from 46 in 2021 to 31 in 2022 and remains relatively low. The number of tissue donors from organ donation who died from an irreversible loss of brain function (brain death) fell from 373 in 2021 to 326 in 2022.

Expression of will for tissue donation 2022

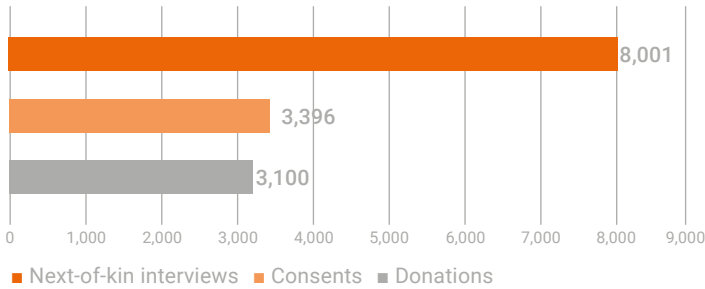


In 2022, 27.7 percent of tissue donations were based on an oral or written declaration of intent – a positive development compared to the previous year, when only 18.5 percent of donors documented or communicated a decision during their lifetime. Around 30 percent of donors decided against tissue donation during their lifetime. The decision to donate tissue is still predominantly based on the presumed will of the deceased – 71.8 percent in the case of consent and 65.7 percent in the case of refusal. The will of the deceased is often unknown to the relatives. A conversation during their lifetime or a completed organ and tissue donation card can relieve the relatives in the decision-making process.

Start of Stuttgart tissue bank

In 2022, the establishment of the Stuttgart Tissue Bank was successfully completed – a joint project of Klinikum Stuttgart and the DGFG. The first inspection by the local authority took place in autumn. In the meantime, we received permission by the Regional Council in Stuttgart and the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute. All necessary approvals for the preparation and allocation of corneal transplants have been obtained. The establishment of the tissue bank with the prospect of being able to process other tissues in addition to corneas is not only in response to the steadily growing donation volume. The modern tissue bank at the Klinikum Stuttgart is a gain for both the region and the nationwide network of the DGFG.

Next-of-kin interviews vs. consents and donations 2022



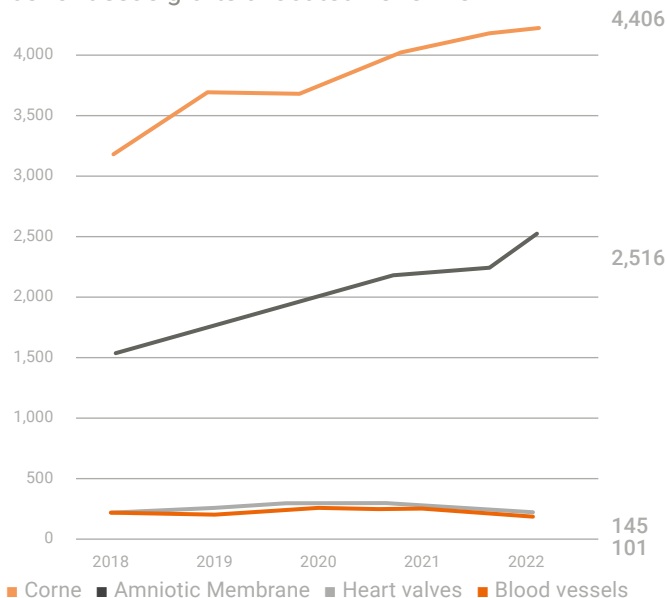
In 2022, the DGFG received 45,864 donor notifications. If there are no medical reasons to exclude the donor and no organizational obstacles, our coordinators conduct next-of-kin interviews. In 2022, they had a total of 8,001 next-of-kin interviews. 3,396 people or their relatives agreed to tissue donation. The DGFG was finally able to realize 3,100 tissue donations in 2022.

Donated tissue preparations 2018–2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cornea	5,249	5,234	5,401	5,612	6,022
Heart valves	313	378	393	445	328
Blood vessels	195	206	267	335	278
Placenta (amnion)	29	40	20	30	21
Bones and ligaments					30
Total	5,786	5,858	6,081	6,422	6,679

In 2022, 6,679 donated tissues were received by the tissue banks in the DGFG network. Due to the drop in organ donations in 2022, the DGFG was facing a decline in the donation of heart valves and blood vessels last year. For the first time, the DGFG had independently realized 30 donations of musculoskeletal tissue (bones and ligaments). The tissue preparations obtained from these donations were sent to the non-profit German Institute for Cell and Tissue Replacement (DIZG) in Berlin for further processing.

Number of tissue grafts allocated 2018–2022



The number of successfully delivered tissue transplants by the DGFG increased by 8.5 percent in 2022 compared to the previous year: In 2022, the DGFG was able to provide a total of 7,168 patients with a tissue transplant, including 4,406 patients receiving a cornea. Among the 2,516 amniotic membranes delivered, 140 were AmnioClip-plus. The allocation of heart valves declined: 145 patients received a heart valve from the DGFG network – nine fewer than the year before.