

Tissue medicine in Germany

Tissue medicine is a sub-area of transplant medicine in Germany. Tissue transplants have been an integral part of medical care for decades and improve the lives of thousands of patients every year. However, this success is only possible through the donation and preparation of tissues, such as corneas or heart valves.

In 2007, the Tissue Act came into force and the DGFG was founded. As DSO-G, a subsidiary of the German Foundation for Organ Transplantation (DSO), it had already been establishing tissue donation in many regions of Germany since 1997. Today, the nationwide network of the DGFG unites numerous partners from tissue donation, processing and transplantation.

Tissue donation - building a bridge to life

Tissue donation is a selfless, altruistic act - a sign of charity for many donors and their families. Therefore, tissue donation belongs in a non-profit as well as publicly controlled area. Due to this fact, the DGFG strictly rejects commercial and private donation concepts. As institutions under public law, the shareholders of the DGFG are subject to the control of the respective federal states. The DGFG itself is audited by the authorities of the federal states and municipalities as well as the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute. All surpluses generated are used exclusively for the promotion of tissue medicine in accordance with the statutes. The university-based network thus complies with the provisions of the Transplantation Act, which expressly prohibits trading and profit-making with tissues.

Support tissue donation now!

Educational projects as well as research and development can only be realized with the help of donations and funding.

IBAN: DE69 3702 0500 0001 5630 15
BIC: BFSWDE33XXX

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
Reference: tissue donation

Organisation

Contrary to organ donation, tissue donation in Germany is organised in a decentralised manner, thus there is a multitude of players in the landscape of tissue medicine. However, the **German Society for Tissue Transplantation (DGFG)** is unique in its structure: in recent years, it has established a nationwide tissue network of clinics and tissue banks - the largest network of its kind in Germany. Within the network, about 120 transplantation programmes are supplied with corneas, 35 clinics with heart valves and blood vessels and about 40 institutions with amniotic transplants.

More than 50 coordinators realise tissue donation at 30 locations nationwide. If a transplant is needed, the central allocation office in Hanover can access the stocks in the 13 tissue banks of the network, checks availability and selects the best possible option. Bottlenecks can thus be compensated. Network partners benefit from a flexible and timely supply of transplants.

**Would you like to know more about our work or a possible cooperation?
Please contact us!**

+49 (0)511 563 559 30 or info@netzwerk.de

Toll-free 24-hour number: +49 (0)800 - 511 5000

You will find further information about tissue donation and the work of the German Society for Tissue Transplantation at www.gewebenetzwerk.de



DGFG - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Gewebetransplantation

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DGFG

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
GEWEBETRANSPLANTATION
GEMEINNÜTZIGE GESELLSCHAFT mbH

Your network for tissue medicine



Network for tissue medicine

The German Society for Tissue Transplantation (DGFG) is an independent non-profit society. Since its foundation in 2007, the DGFG has built up a nationwide network of numerous clinics, tissue banks and transplantation centers. It supports the cooperation partners in tissue donation, processing and allocation of the tissues.

Shareholders of the DGFG are the Hanover Medical School, the Leipzig University Hospital, the Carl Gustav Carus University Hospital Dresden, the Rostock University Hospital and the Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Clinic Neubrandenburg.

Our network is driven by the idea of tissue donation as a solidarity community task and to become active where our help is most urgently needed.

Goals

- to provide the population with safe tissue transplants
- preservation of the non-profit character of tissue donation
- expansion of the nationwide network for tissue medicine
- continuous adaptation and optimisation of quality standards
- establishment of new scientific procedures
- supporting and conducting scientific studies
- cooperation with international partners and promotion of tissue medicine worldwide
- public education and awareness

What we do



Tissue donation

Processing

Allocation

Transplantation

Quality Management

Research & Development

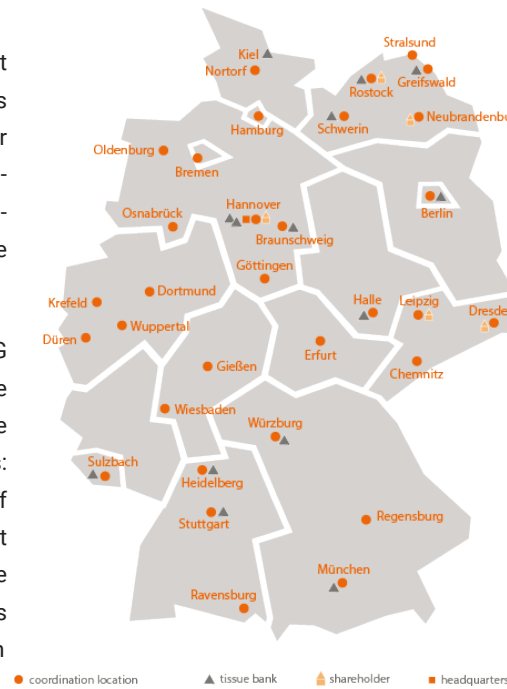
Public Relations

Tissue donation

The DGFG is the only tissue establishment with locations throughout Germany. It is thus the most important supra-regional partner for hospitals in tissue medicine. The notification of possible donors by hospitals is required in order to ultimately perform tissue donations.

Those hospitals work together with the DGFG on a contractual basis in accordance with the Tissue Act. Coordinators of the DGFG take over the organisation of tissue donations: from medical screening, through the next of kin interview, to the removal and subsequent transport to the tissue bank. In addition, the coordinators are on site as direct contacts for the clinics and to help the clinic staff with further questions.

The legal basis for consent to tissue donation is the Transplantation Act (TPG). In Germany, the opt-in system with an informed consent has applied since 2012 – both for organ and tissue donation. Tissue donation after death is only possible if there is written or verbal consent from the donor. If the will is not known, the relatives can make a decision in the deceased's best interests.

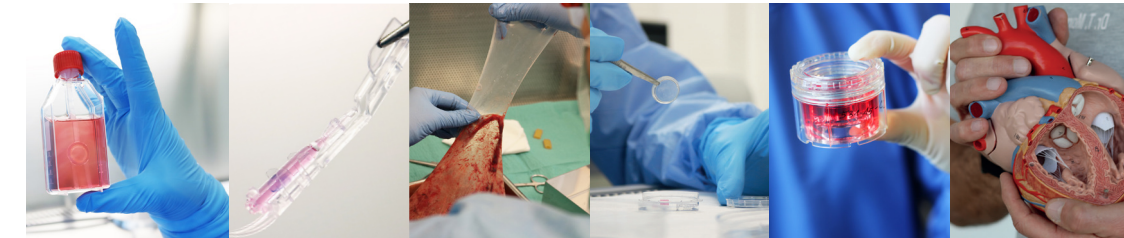


Tissue banks

Tissues are not transplanted immediately. After removal, they are sent to tissue banks where they are processed for later transplantation. Since its foundation, the DGFG has built up a network of its own and cooperating tissue banks. All tissue banks in the network benefit from common human resources and standard operating procedures (SOP). Depending on regional requirements, the DGFG takes care of all prescribed official permits and approvals.

Tissue allocation

All transplanting institutions can obtain tissue transplants from the DGFG. The allocation office is the central point of contact for coordinators and tissue banks in the network. As a service partner, it is available to transplant centres for registering their patients and answering questions about the tissue transplants. With a nationwide network, the DGFG can ensure a regular and emergency supply even with fluctuating stocks and demand.



The DGFG distributes corneas, amniotic membranes, heart valves, blood vessels and musculoskeletal tissue preparations. Information on ordering transplants:

www.gewebenetzwerk.de/en/gewebevermittlung

For questions about tissue donation or transplant allocation:

Toll-free
24-hour number
+49 (0)800 - 511 5000



Networking

The DGFG network sets standards throughout Germany and is involved in national and international tissue medicine circles. In addition to scientific exchange, the focus is also on the international promotion of tissue medicine. The goal: to improve patient care with tissue worldwide.

Funding

The DGFG refinances itself exclusively from the reimbursement rates for distributed tissue transplants. All surpluses generated are used exclusively for the promotion of tissue medicine in accordance with the statutes. Thus, the university-based network complies with the provisions of the Transplantation Act, which expressly prohibits trade and profit-making with tissues.

The DGFG is committed to tissue donation in Germany and beyond. The fundraising programme enables the financing of many educational and charity projects. In addition, the programme promotes the development of scientific projects to improve the quality of transplants.

More information at: www.gewebenetzwerk.de/en/foerderung