

Spinal Elements Tissue Donation Fact Sheet

- **Tissue grafts help 50 times more people than the number who receive organ donations, and yet it's a little known business.**
- Most people are familiar with organ donation, especially as it is portrayed on television or in movies. But many organ donors are unaware they have also agreed to donate their veins, bones, skin and other tissues, which can be used not only to save a life, but also to help a cosmetic surgery patient.
- **Tissue is anything that's not a live organ and can be recovered from a dead body.** It can then be turned into scores of medical products. Every year, 1.5 million of these products are given to American patients.
- Tissue banks exist to meet critical medical needs. **Physicians use tissue allografts to save and improve the lives of more than one million Americans each year.**
 - Tissue allografts are commonly used to improve medical outcomes across a broad spectrum of clinical specialties.
 - Donated heart valves can replace damaged valves, or correct a baby's congenital defect, allowing the heart to function normally.
 - Special grafts help patients with spinal deformities live normal lives.
 - Musculoskeletal tissue can save limbs from amputation and be used to replace bone, tendons and ligaments lost to cancer, severe trauma, degenerative joint disease, arthritis and other conditions.
 - Donated skin can save the lives of burn victims and improve the lives of patients with significant soft tissue defects.
- Tissue banks in the United States are **governed by the National Organ Transplant Act**, which dictates that tissues cannot be bought or sold. Tissue companies do, however, charge for the cost of processing the tissue into various forms. Costs include those associated with the recovery, processing, and storing of tissue, and for the development of tissue processing technologies. Depending on the allograft created, there are different costs for that process.
- **Tissue companies, by the industry's own estimates, make more than \$1 billion a year.**
- It's estimated that the tissue off of a single body can **generate revenues of \$80,000** or more.
- **Spinal Elements is the first spine company to donate 100 percent of the net proceeds from the sale of its tissue product called Hero to children's charities.**

Sources: Organ Procurement Transplant Network, United Network For Organ Sharing, United Network For Sharing, FDA, American Association of Tissue Banks, State organ and tissue donation registries, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, NPR "Calculating the Value of Human Tissue Donation" broadcast