

The Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons
香 港 骨 科 醫 學 院

Dr. K.H. LO
President
College of Surgeons of HK

Dear Dr. LO

Human Organ Transplant (Amendment) Bill

Thank you for asking the opinion from our College regarding the Human Organ Transplant (Amendment) Bill. We would be most grateful if the following suggestions can be considered :

1. According to the proposed amendment, tendon and bone are likely to be considered as organs. Currently, human tendons and bone are commercially available as allografts. Although such products are not yet marketed to Hong Kong, it is only a matter of time that these will be available to patients and doctors in Hong Kong. Under such situation, being a commercial product, the use of such products will violate section 7.2 iv "that no person in the specified place made or receive a payment for supplying the organs". One possible way to overcome this is to specify in the definition of "organ" that bone and tendon are tissues and are exempted from the other details of the Human Transplant Ordinance.
2. Section 5B contains details of the procedures required when transplants involving organs removed for donors' therapy. In orthopaedic practice, it is very common for orthopaedic surgeons to keep excised femoral heads in bone banks. Excision of the femoral head is actually part of the procedure to treat fracture neck of the femur and replace it with a femoral prosthesis. The excised femoral head will have to be discarded as medical waste if it is not stored in the bone bank. Under the proposed amendment, declaration to the board within 30 days after transplantation is required. This will impose additional paper work to both medical staff and the Human Organ Transplant Board.

The use of bone removed for donors' therapy is both environment friend and cost-effective. Hence medical staff should be encouraged to use this method. This is especially important because there are times that no alternative method with comparable efficacy is available. Even when alternatives are available in some stations, expensive artificial bone substitutes or custom made prosthesis are required. It is therefore our sincere wish that bone removed for donors' therapy are exempted from the administrative requirements

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. S.H. YEUNG)
President
Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons