

	HANDLING ALLOGRAFT TISSUE	Document No: 1003:F1
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		Page 1 of 1
		Document For General Use

Grafts are delivered to user hospitals in response to a written order received from either a surgeon or the Operating Room staff.

All grafts are delivered by the Australian Biotechnologies Courier packed in dry ice in a polystyrene esky. Validations have been performed within Australian Biotechnologies to determine the number of grafts and the amount of dry ice which can be packed into each different sized esky to ensure the storage temperature is maintained at below -40°C from the time of dispatch until the estimated time of surgery.

On delivery you don't have to unpack the esky, rather place it in a cool area – within the air conditioned Operating Room Suite will suffice – and leave until the estimated time of surgery.

If you are fortunate enough to have a freezer which is maintained at a minimum temperature of -20°C you may safely unpack the esky and place the grafts into the freezer for safe keeping.

On the day of surgery don't take the graft out of the freezer or dry ice until you are sure the Surgeon is going to use it. Once definite of its use the following procedure applies:

1. Open the esky and remove the graft/s;
2. Remove the boxed graft from the dustguard bag;
3. Remove the graft from the labelled box;
4. Examine the peel pack pouch holding the graft for package integrity. Do not use if there is evidence that the outer peel pack pouch has been damaged or sterility has been compromised;
5. Ensure the sterilisation indicator on the peel pouch has changed from yellow to either dark orange or red;
6. Using aseptic technique have the Scout Nurse open the outer peel pouch and introduce the inner pack to the Scrubbed RN;
7. Open the inner pouch, again do not use if the pouch is damaged in any way or there is cause for concern regarding integrity of the packaging;
8. Remove inner pack containing graft;
9. Remove the graft and place into a sterile bowl on the sterile field;
10. Immerse the tissue completely with a warm, sterile solution (if Surgeon has no preference Saline 0.9% will suffice);
11. Minimum thawing time for tissue is approximately 15 minutes. Of course times will vary depending on the size / bulk of the graft;
12. Once the graft has been used complete the accompanying Recipient Tracking Form and fax to Australian Biotechnologies 02 94526477.

Australian Biotechnologies doesn't accept the return of dispatched tissue grafts.

Unused grafts can be stored as follows:

- For up to 6 months at -20°C
- For up to 5 years at -40°C or colder

If grafts are discarded Australian Biotechnologies MUST be notified.

Similarly, if grafts are unused and placed into storage Australian Biotechnologies MUST be notified.

Fax all details regarding the outcome of graft usage, storage or discard to The Director Tissue Services, Australian Biotechnologies 02 94526477

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