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Commentary

Current Methods of Bone Grafting

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ABOUT THE STUDY

When a bone fracture is exceedingly complicated, poses a serious risk to the patient's health, or does not mend properly, bone grafting is a surgical treatment that replaces missing bone. However, the danger is higher for major fractures such compound fractures. Bone grafting is not always necessary to treat minor or acute fractures. For complete regeneration to occur, bone often needs a very small fracture space or some kind of scaffold. Bone grafts can be synthetic (often made of hydroxyapatite or other naturally occurring and biocompatible materials with similar mechanical properties to bone), allograft (cadaveric bone typically obtained from a bone bank), or autologous (bone harvested from the patient's own body, frequently from the iliac crest). The majority of bone grafts are anticipated to resorb and be replaced when the natural bone heals over the course of a few months.

The principles of osteoconduction (directing the reparative growth of the native bone), osteoinduction (encouraging undifferentiated cells to become active osteoblasts), and osteogenesis are essential to the success of bone grafts (living bone cells in the graft material contribute to bone remodeling). Only autograft tissue and allograft cellular bone matrices can induce osteogenesis.

Methods

A different surgeon can be asked to do the procedure depending on where the bone graft is required. Orthopedic surgeons, otolaryngologists (head and neck surgeons), neurosurgeons, craniofacial surgeons, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, podiatrists, dental surgeons, oral surgeons, and implantologists are among the medical professionals who frequently undertake bone transplant treatments.

Autograft: When doing an autologous (or autogenous) bone graft, the recipient's own bone is used as the donor material. Bone can be taken from non-essential bones like the iliac crest or, more frequently in oral and maxillofacial surgery, the mandibular symphysis (the area under the chin) or anterior mandibular ramus (the coronoid process). This is especially true for block grafts, in which a small block of bone is placed whole in the area being grafted. When a block transplant is planned, autogenous bone is most frequently used because there is a lower chance that the patient's body may reject the graft. Such a graft would be osteoconductive, osteoinductive, and osteogenic, as seen in the chart above.

The need for an additional surgical site, which effectively adds another possible location for post-operative pain and problems, is a drawback of autologous grafts. Typically, autologous bone is taken from extra-oral locations such the iliac crest, fibula, ribs, mandible, and even some portions of the skull, as well as intra-oral locations like the chin.

Dentin graft: Constructed from removed teeth, dentin bone more than 85% of a tooth's structure is made up of dentin, while 10% is made up of the HA mineral that makes up enamel. In terms of chemical makeup, dentin is identical to bone; by volume, it is composed of 70–75 percent HA minerals and 20–25 percent organic matrix, primarily fibrous type I collagen. Osteoclasts may release growth and differentiation factors as they resorb dentin, just like they do with bone.

Some businesses have created clinical techniques that involve grinding, sorting, and cleaning of the teeth for either immediate or future use in order to make the dentin graft useable and bacteria-free.

Allografts: Both autogenous and allograft bone come from humans, with the difference being that allograft is taken from a person other than the recipient of the graft. Allograft bone is often obtained from a bone bank and can be extracted from cadavers who have donated their bone so that it can be utilized for living individuals who require it. Additionally, bone banks provide allograft bone from living human bone donors (often hospital inpatients) for patients having elective complete hip replacements (total hip replacement surgery).

The femoral head of the patient must be removed during complete hip replacement in order to properly insert the artificial hip prosthesis. At the proximal end of the femur, the femoral head is a nearly spherical region of bone with a diameter ranging from 45 to 56 millimetres in adult humans. At the conclusion of the operation, the femoral head of the patient is typically tossed into the hospital garbage.

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Three different kinds of bone allograft are offered:

- Frozen or fresh bones
- Allograft of Freeze-Dried Bone (FDBA)
- Allograft of Demineralized, Freeze-Dried Bone (DFDBA)

Alloplastic grafts: A naturally occurring mineral called hydroxyapatite, which is also the principal mineral in bone, can be used to create alloplastic grafts. They might be constructed of bioactive glass. Because of its osteoconduction, hardness, and acceptance by bone, hydroxylapatite, a synthetic bone graft, is currently the most popular synthetic material. Tricalcium phosphate, which is now combined with hydroxylapatite, has an influence on both resorbability and osteoconduction. For their ability to prevent infection as well as their mechanical resilience and biocompatibility, polymers such as some microporous grades of PMMA and various other acrylates (such as Polyhydroxylethylmethacrylate, or PHEMA), coated with calcium hydroxide for adhesion, are also used as alloplastic grafts.

Xenografts: Bovine bone (or more recently, porcine bone), which can be freeze dried or demineralized and deproteinized, is the source of xenograft bone substitute. Typically, xenografts are only given out as a calcified matrix. To create "Coral Derived Granules" (CDG) and other varieties of coralline xenografts, the madrepore and/or millepore type of corals are extracted and processed. Natural human bone is composed of hydroxyapatite along with calcium phosphate and carbonate, whereas coral-based xenografts are primarily calcium carbonate (and a significant proportion of fluorides, useful in the context of grafting to promote bone development).