

# News

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas  
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214) 688-3404

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CONTACT: Ann Harrell  
Office: 214/688-3404  
Home: 214/369-2695  
or:  
Liz Willding  
Office: 214/688-3404  
Home: 214/620-8654

\*\*\*\*UT bankable organ transplant  
program to help child with tumor

DALLAS--Because the UT Lions Transplant Program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas is now "banking" bones and cartilage, a six-year-old Dallas girl will probably be able to avoid amputation of a large area of her left scapula (shoulder bone).

In her surgery surgeons will use the iliac crest, a portion of donor hip bone, one of the organs being collected by a unique service that handles "bankable" organs, organs that can be stored for later use. The UT program also works with human skin for transplant in cases of major burns or other large injuries; corneas and sclera, or whites of the eye, for repair of tears in the eyeball or for supportive tissue in gum surgery; bone and cartilage transplants for orthopedic surgeries such as Yvonne Parker of Dallas will receive and neck and back fusions (also using iliac crests). The program also accepts research.

Yvonne, who has an aneurysmal bone cyst on her left scapula, will have a curettage (cutting out of the tumor) and bone graft April 5 at Parkland Memorial Hospital. At that time an iliac crest from a donor will be placed in the area from which the tumor has been removed. The transplanted bone will fill the space the benign tumor was occupying and act as support for new bone growth, says her surgeon, Parkland resident Dr. Kevin Gill. Gill is training in orthopedic surgery under the direction of faculty members at the health science center.

"The marrow in the bone will also facilitate healing while the crest itself acts as a support and helps the patient preserve function," says Gill.

Without the availability of this surgery, Yvonne would have to have a larger area removed and suffer crippling effects from having the tumor removed without bone replacement.

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