

## Fact Sheet No. 2

### **The benefits so far resulting from the UK Facial Transplantation Programme**

The current research programme began over ten years ago and has involved a variety of medical disciplines and studies in addition to reconstructive surgery and immunosuppression. Most notably, much has been learned about the psychological aspects of facial disfigurement and the implications of all forms of treatment.

What follows then, is a summary of the main benefits of the exhaustive research process across all areas to date:

#### **Psychology**

- 1) A better understanding of the relationship between disfigurement and psychological distress.  
Studies across a wide range of facial disfigurement groups.  
Four ongoing departmental studies on Facial Lipodystrophy, Facial Scleroderma, Facial Burns, Facial Scarring.
- 2) First study demonstrating this in different racial and cultural group.
- 3) Better understanding of how psychological distress varies during the treatment process of an acquired facial disfigurement.  
Demonstration that sex and age are important in the judgements about disfigurement made by an observer.  
Development of an assessment process for all facial surgical interventions.

#### **Surgical/Technical/Functional**

- 1) Facial artery study makes facial surgery safer by describing for the first time course and variations in facial artery.
- 2) Demonstration of non invasive method of documentation of course.  
Application to all plastic surgery.
- 3) Validated assessment tool for facial motion. Two dimensional static and now two and three dimensional live motion assessment.
- 4) Validation of facial volumetric tool.

## **Transplantation**

- 1) Better understanding of general public attitudes to transplantation.
- 2) Development of a scientific basis for sequencing requests for donation of organs and tissues.
- 3) Better understanding of donor issues across all transplantation.
- 4) Development of a proactive strategy for donation.
- 5) Raising in a positive way the benefits of transplantation.

## **Benefits to Society**

- 1) The research and debate regarding facial disfigurement has made the public aware that plastic surgery does more than cosmetic surgery.
- 2) There is now more awareness of facial disfigurement and how we can deal with it. The programme has highlighted the problems of facial disfigurement and the need for more effective treatments.

## **Ethical Benefits**

- 1) We have developed a proposed model for establishing informed consent in new procedures.
- 2) We have developed an objective process for establishing that relevant information about risk has been provided and retained prior to invasive procedures.

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