

Anatomy

**Organ Donation**

A young woman was lying in an infirmary bed one afternoon. She was getting ready for heart surgery and was suffering from heart failure.

“How is she doing?” the woman’s mother asked.

“She’s doing just fine,” the doctor who would be performing surgery on her said.

“What will happen to her during the surgery?” the mother asked.

“Firstly, we will put her under anesthesia to make sure she is still and won't feel any pain during surgery. Then, an incision will be made over her breast and the bone divided to allow access to

all parts of the heart. She will then be connected to a heart-lung machine which will circulate and oxygenate her blood during the operation. Then we will open the pericardium that surrounds her diseased heart and we'll remove its connections from the great arteries, leaving in place the back parts of her right and left atria. Her new heart is carefully fitted and sewn to the remaining portions of your atria. After her new heart is in place, she will be taken off the machine and left to recover. This method is called an orthotropic procedure and is the most common method of heart transplantation,” the surgeon explained.

“How successful will the operation be?” the father asked.

“There is a high chance of the operation being successful as long as the blood types match up and they do,” the doctor said.

"When we replace the blood in her they need to be of the same typing. If not then she will

get either seriously ill or she will die," the doctor explained.

"The patient has type B blood and the blood we will be transferring into to her has type O blood. Type O blood works with any other type of blood because it has both A and B antigens,"The doctor said.

"Oh thank goodness,"The mother said happily.

After fours hours of surgery, the woman was recovering safely in the hospital.