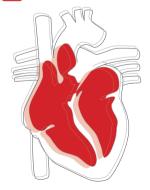
## How should human tissue be treated?

In 1999 a total of 2,080 children's hearts and more than 800 organs from children were kept at Alder Hey Hospital along with 400 foetuses collected from hospital(s) across the region.





Should consent be so important if it slows down the cure for cancer?

Research using human tissue is essential if we are to improve our understanding of cancer and develop more effective cancer treatments.

### **Public**

"I'd rather donate my organs to save the lives of other people, than donate to medical research, it's too complicated and I don't really understand what they do."

### **Pathologist**

"Changing working practices to address the issue of consent does mean more paperwork, but it's a question of balance. Consent issues are important to patients and their families, so as pathologists, they are important to us."

### The Times Health Editor

"The fear is that obtaining consent will be laborious, to the point where some studies become impossible."

### **Cancer Research**

"The 2004 HTA could raise serious problems for medical research. Had it been in place earlier the research leading to the discovery of the 'cancer genes' would not have been possible, yet now people can have life saving tests for these breast cancer genes."

## What do you think about donation?

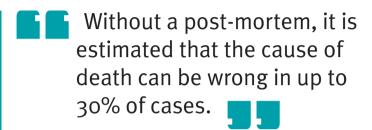
If you're donating your organs, as long as it's going somewhere for the great and good I wouldn't really care. As long as it's doing something rather than just sitting around, or something like that.

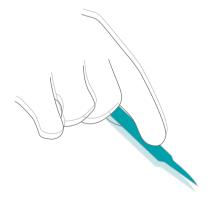
Male 16-24, Surbiton.

Ipsos Mori. 2007. Human Tissue Act Stakeholder Evaluation. http://www.ipsos-mori.com/\_assets/polls/2007/pdf/hta.pdf on 17.09.08



## Wouldn't your family want to know how you died?





#### **Paediatric Pathologist BBC News Public** pathologist "In my experience "past practices (keeping "In 1999, in Liverpool, "I don't want to be cut patients organs Annette Grimes found grieving parents are up when I die, because after post mortem) that the baby she helped by allowing you just don't know were not necessarily thought she'd buried post mortems for their what'll happen to your unlawful, but they were whole, 40 years earlier, babies and are greatly bits and pieces." increasingly at odds was buried without comforted by knowing with the expectations his heart, lungs and the post mortem and wishes of many oesophagus, which research will help had been kept by the other families with sick grieving families, a practice which is no hospital following post children." longer acceptable. mortem." Consent is now required for post mortem and tissue retention."

## Is human tissue for sale?

Two British hospitals revealed they had given heart tissue, removed from children during live operations, to a pharmaceutical company for research.

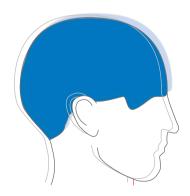
Shortly after, both hospitals received cash donations from the company involved.





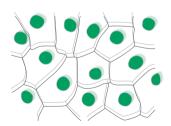
## Whose consent counts?

A patient can state their wishes about what happens to their body after death. From September 1st, 2006, the wishes of the deceased legally take precedence over those of the family.





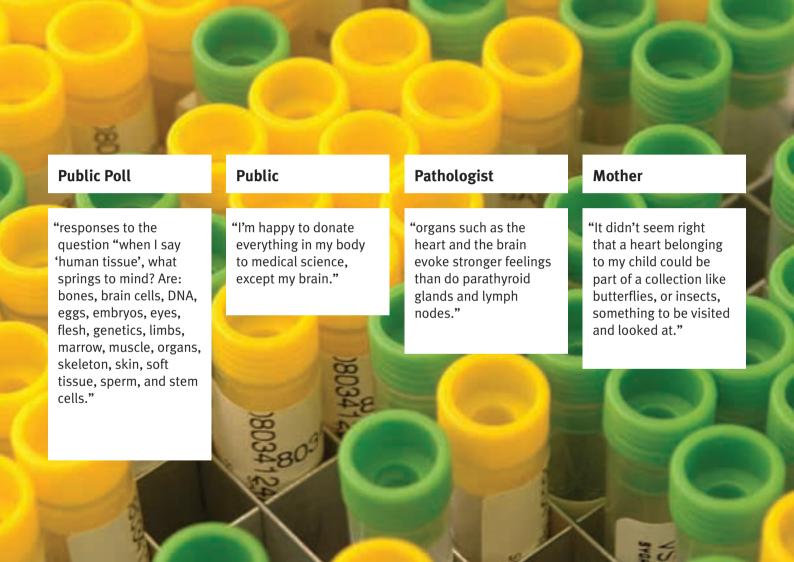
## What does 'human tissue' mean?



J.C.E. Underwood. 2006. The impact on histopathology practice of new human tissue legislation in the UK. Histopathology. 49: 221-228. p.222.

Human tissue is 'material, other than gametes, which consists of or includes human cells'. This Act does not apply to 'hair and nail from the body of a living person'. HTA 2004

However, [...] the legislation makes no distinction between the heart from a dead child and the urine from a living individual.



# Pathology: Dubious past or groundbreaking progress?

Charles Byrne (1761-1783) the Irish Giant, made his living at Freak Shows in 18th Century Britain. Aware that anatomists wanted his body for research, his will stated he wanted to be buried at sea in an iron coffin. Three years after his death, the famous anatomist, John Hunter, displayed Byrne's skeleton in his teaching museum, to much acclaim but against Byrnes expressed wishes.

