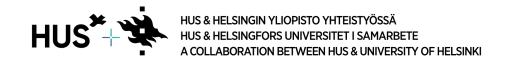


# HELSINKI FACE TRANSPLANTATION CENTER

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Finland

EU country Population 5.5 M<sub>1</sub>

Health care

- Tax funded
- Highly centralized



## Organ transplantations in Finland

- National Solid Organ Tx center in Helsinki
- National OPO
- National VCA center (face, hand, other)

• 2 Face Tx (2016,2018) & Upper extremity Tx patient listed

#### Helsinki Face Tx center

- Program building
- Patient evaluation

- Treatment
- Follow-up

#### Transplantation team

- Transplantation surgeons
- Immunologists
- Infectious disease specialists
- Psychiatrist, psychologists
- Rejection pathologists
- Internal medicine specialists
- Transplantation coordinator

#### H&N team

- Radiologists
- Dental specialists
- Oral physiotherapist
- Physiotherapist
- Speech therapist
- Nutritional therapist
- Social worker

#### Surgical team

- Plastic surgeons
- Maxillofacial surgeons
- ENT surgeons
- Anestesiologists
- Nurses

## Funding

- VCA's funded by normal health care in Finland
  - considered as experimental care under standard health care
- Treatment has to be funded for the patient for the rest of their life

# Patient selection process

Key to success = patient selection

### 1. Indications for face transplantation

Facial deficiency with loss of function that can not be reconstructed conventionally

Or a severe loss of normal facial structures

#### 2. Contraindications

- Absolute
  - Noncompliance
  - Nonability to continue immunosuppression or follow-up
  - Active cancer
  - Psychiatric lability
  - Severe chronic illness
  - Age <18 or >65

- Relative
  - Smoking
  - Substance abuse
  - Chronic illnesses

## 3. Psychological evaluation

- Structural analysis and written summary
- Compliance
- Patient needs to understand the procedure

# 4. Quality of life

Decrease in the QOL Patient's decision

#### Goals

Patient evaluation & measurement of success

- 1. To correct disfigured anatomy
- 2. To return missing function
- 3. To restore normal appearence
- 4. To improve life and well-being
- 5. To avoid harm from the treatment

### Immunosuppression

Thymoglobulin

1. Tacrolimus

2. CellCept

3. Medrol

### Registry



If two registries
they need to be able
to share data