



Danbury Hospital  
Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
*Technically Speaking*

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*C. S. Guidess, Editor*

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**Information Regarding Human Tissue for Transplantation  
at Danbury Hospital**

There have been numerous stories in the press about illegal procurement of bones, tissue & other body parts by a human tissue recovery firm, Biomedical Tissue Services, Ltd. (BTS) of Ft. Lee, NJ. It has reported that some of this tissue may have been implanted into patients from early 2004 to September 2005.

Firms that had received & distributed tissue from this supplier have voluntarily notified receiving facilities in an effort to remove unused products from inventory & to notify recipients' physicians, so testing can be offered. These recalls began as early as September 2005. To date, Danbury Hospital has not received any notification from any of its tissue vendors that we have ever received any tissues recovered by this tissue recovery firm.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) believe the risks from these tissues are low because the tissues were routinely processed using methods that help to reduce the risk of infectious disease; however, since the actual infectious risk is unknown, appropriate infectious disease testing is strongly recommended.

There are several elements to the safety profile of bone/tissue products used at Danbury Hospital. We routinely perform careful investigation of all vendors used to assure the highest standards are met in donor testing & product safety *prior* to receipt of any product.

In addition, with respect to this recall, the following steps were taken

- Compared our tissue vendor list against a list of tissue processors that have received tissue from BTS
- Contacted identified tissue vendors to assure that none of these products had been shipped to our facility

If you or your patients still have concerns or questions related to a tissue transplant, please call 203-797-7747.