



How Skin Saves Lives (Frequently Asked Question)

1. How can donated skin help save a life?

More than 2,000 people a year die from serious burn injuries in Nepal. These burn injuries are caused primarily by open cooking fires. Currently, if more than 40% of a patient's skin area is burned, it is not possible to save them. Skin donation can change this. Donated skin acts like a super bandage, protecting the victim's body from infection and giving it time to heal. It also reduces pain, reduces the cost of treatment, and increases the survival rate of patients.

2. When and where can skin be donated?

Skin can be donated within 6 hours of death. After being called, our doctors will arrive within 2 hours to conduct the donation. This can be done in a hospital, in the home of the deceased, or at another site that the family prefers. Our doctors can accommodate most locations.

3. How do you do it?

After placing the body in a sterile environment and sanitizing the area, trained specialists use a tool called a dermatome to remove a paper-thin layer of skin from the body.

4. Where will you take the skin from?

We usually take four grafts: one from each thigh, one from the chest, and one from the back. Your family may choose to leave any of these grafts undone, for any reason.

5. What does the body look like afterward?

We take only a paper-thin layer from the surface of the skin. The skin underneath will be a bit lighter in color. The body does not bleed, and no internal organs are exposed.

6. How long will it take?

The process takes about 45 minutes. Not much to save a life!

7. What happens to the skin next?

The skin is placed in sterile containers and taken to Kirtipur Hospital, where it will be stored and used by the Kirtipur Burn Surgeon team to save burn victims.

8. How long can skin be used?

Skin can be preserved and stored for a period of 5 years.

9. Can the donor and the recipient have different ages, races, or genders?

Yes! The skin graft protects the patient's body as they heal. While the "super bandage" provides protection, skin is gradually taken from other parts of the patient's own body to replace the temporary graft. After about three weeks, the super bandage has done its job and can be removed. Because the graft is temporary, no "matching" needs to be done. Any victim can use skin from any donor, and all skin helps! Persons suffering from certain rare skin or viral conditions may not qualify, but our doctors will test the skin for any of these conditions before the grafting process.

10. What do you need from me?

- Register as a skin donor today at nepalskinbank.com. The virtuous cycle begins with a registration.
- You will become part of our network of champions, and receive regular communications from our team about awareness events, recent success stories, and upcoming celebrations.
- If your address or phone number changes, keep us updated at nepalskinbank.com
- You can also visit nepalskinbank.com to request a donor card, give us feedback, or find materials and support for setting up an awareness event of your own!

A Virtuous Cycle

