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## BONE ALLOGRAFTS: EXPERIENCE IN PAKISTAN

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### SUMMARY

There is a need for reconstruction of bony defects, created by myriad of reasons, but principally due to terrorism incidents, which rocked Pakistan for a decade, Pakistan Orthopedic Association invested in setting up a bone bank in Peshawar, Pakistan and it became operational in May 2017.

Due to religious decrees, we have been unable to get ahead with cadaver donors, but it's been a lot easier than expecting to start our services with live donors. Frozen femoral heads have been used to date to reconstruct defects, but we plan to expand our services to include cortical allografts and freeze dried grafts in near future.

It's been an incredible experience for the author. It started with enrolment into NUS tissue banking diploma program, the convincing orthopedic colleagues to invest in bone bank and then finally getting it in terrorism-torn Peshawar (the author's hometown).

In the past one year, we have been able to collect around 150 live femoral heads after hip replacement procedures, they were subjected to various tests, then frozen in deep freezer at -80 degrees and then transported to wherever it was needed. Lately, we have started to use gamma radiation on our allografts, thanks to the help by agriculture research institute.

We have arranged workshops to make our colleagues aware of this facility and the protocols involved in harvest, collection and transport to allografts and now most of them are contributing to the bone bank.

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