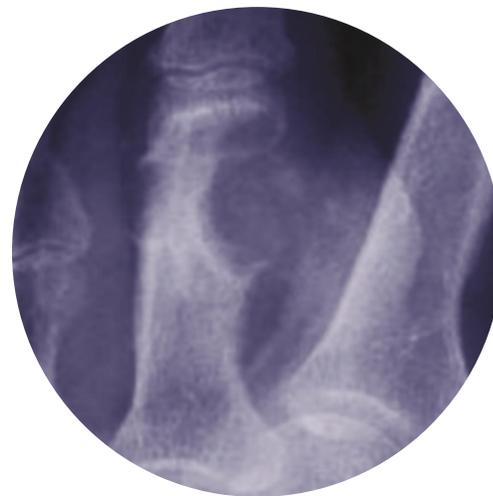


# Recipient Remains Positive Despite Adversity



Instead of being happy and excited about being a newly engaged woman, Salina was greatly concerned about a major health issue. She would hide her hand, unable to show off her new engagement ring due to a large unsightly Giant Cell tumor of the left ring finger.

Giant Cell tumors of the tendon sheath are the second most common tumor of the hand after ganglion cysts. They are usually benign tumors. However, the sheer size of the tumor and the pressure it creates on adjacent tissues can cause cortical erosion of the bone beneath the tendon sheath. The tumor can cause problems with dexterity and hand strength. Tumor reoccurrence is very frequent in cases where surgical debulking and removal of the tumor were attempted. Due to this fact, amputation of the affected digit is common.



*X-ray depicting cortical erosion of the finger bone. Used with permission from eMedicine.com, Inc., 2004.*



Salina was only 23 years old and looking forward to her upcoming wedding. Her surgeon wanted to pursue other treatment options before resorting to amputation of her affected finger. He contacted MTF's donor planning department about obtaining a finger bone for transplantation. This was the first request of its kind at MTF. While MTF has frequently coordinated the recovery of special need or large grafts for oncology or trauma patients, this request presented some unique challenges.



*A preoperative photo of Salina's left hand showing the Giant Cell tumor of the ring finger.*

The recovery of finger bones is not part of a standard bone donation. A special request for this type of donation was required when seeking consent from donor families. Great consideration and attention had to be given to the recovery technique during the removal of the bone so the donor families' funeral plans were not affected.



*Salina's X-ray post surgery*

*In a three-hour outpatient procedure, Salina received her finger transplant. This is a picture of Salina's hand after the surgery.*



Due to the efforts of MTF's recovery partners and the kindness of donor families, four finger bone donations were received in an attempt to help Salina. MTF recovery partners did an exceptional job in making Salina's transplant happen. Salina eventually received her transplant in a three-hour outpatient surgery.

Salina did well in the initial postoperative period. However, the tumor did eventually reoccur and Salina had to undergo an amputation of her left ring finger. While the medical outcome was not the one that all had wished for Salina, the donation process showed us again that donor families are willing to give consent for these special types of grafts in the hope of making a difference in the life of a recipient. Salina herself, despite the loss of the donated graft, has become a great advocate for tissue donation, speaking frequently to groups about her experience. She no longer hides her hand, proud of the story that speaks to courage and generosity.

Salina's story is the whole reason for donation and transplantation...the gift of hope that every donor gives to a recipient.

**MTF** Musculoskeletal  
Transplant  
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*Changing Lives*  
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The Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation is a non-profit service organization founded by surgeons to provide quality tissue for allograft transplantation. MTF is AATB accredited and committed to excellence in education, research, recovery and care for recipients, donors and their families. As the country's largest, full service tissue bank, MTF distributed more than 310,000 tissue grafts, helping more than 250,000 people in 2003.