MTF Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation

Changing Lives Through Tissue Donation

CLINICAL CASE STUDY

A perfect match, and dancing again.

Recipient Katie Hunter, dancing again.
Photo courtesy of Jake Adler.

Recipient Katie Hunter.

As a 19 year-old student at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, Katie Hunter was an active college sophomore. She enjoyed dancing, she was a cheerleader, and she worked in a nursing home as a nurse's aide.

When she was diagnosed with a bone tumor in her right arm, she left college for her home in New York, worrying about potential amputation or a prosthesis. Though she did not know it yet, Katie was about to get an education in medical advancement.

After meeting with MTF Medical Board of Trustees member Susan Bukata, M.D., in Rochester, New York, Katie learned she had a Giant Cell Tumor. The good news: it was benign, and with advanced medicine there were plenty of treatment options. The surgeon opted for the use of an allograft to reconstruct part of Katie's distal radius. She received a perfect donor match from MTF.

After the surgery, Katie began intense physical therapy. Four months later she was able to write again and soon she was able to drive again. Katie was relieved to be able to get back to everyday activities after struggling for months to tie her own shoes, eat, wash her hair, and brush her teeth.

Katie recently graduated from Earlham College, where she was able to type papers for classes without assistance and take handwritten exams. She is dancing again, and traveled to Greece last May with school. Katie is also engaged and soon to be married.

"I am tremendously thankful to my donor and donor family for making this surgery a possibility," says Katie. Without the donation, Katie would have much less function in her dominant arm. Now she has a chance at a better life, full of physical activity, and promise for the future.

Giant Cell Tumor: Allograft Reconstruction

The pre-op x-rays show Katie's Giant Cell Tumor (circled) at the distal end of the radius. The tumor makes the bone appear less dense that the surrounding bone. All of the bone containing the tumor had to be removed, which left Katie missing about 4 inches of bone that is essential for movement of the hand and wrist.

front

lateral

The post-op x-rays show the newly placed allograft that replaced the missing bone. The plate and screws hold the remaining bone and the allograft together. The lateral (side) view demonstrates a seamless transition where the allograft and Katie's remaining bone have come together.

front

lateral

The two-year post-op x-rays show how the allograft has healed to the bone at the host-donor junction. The new bone allows increased range of motion. Katie's surgeon describes her range of motion as excellent. Her surgeon also expects no recurrence of the Giant Cell Tumor.

front

lateral

MTF Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation

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The Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation is a non-profit service organization dedicated to providing quality tissue through a commitment to excellence in education, research, recovery, and care for recipients, donors, and their families.