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Basic Science Question:

What is a bone graft?

Report:

Bone is a tissue required to constantly adapt to the everyday stress of the body, which can be attained through bone regeneration and repair. Although bone contains mechanisms to repair and regenerate itself, placing a bone graft can promote either osteoinduction or osteogenesis. The bone graft consists of bone that is taken and transplanted to the area of desired promotion. The transplanted bone itself can be an autograft, an allograft or a synthetic graft. An autograft is bone originating from yourself, allograft is bone originating from another person and synthetic graft could come from a bone bank or man-made bone. When the goal is osteoinduction to grow bone together the bone graft is inserted and secured between the two fractured pieces of bone. Although bone grafting is considered generally safe it does not come without risks. These risks can include infection, bleeding, nerve damage or blood clots. Another risk with bone grafting is that the graft may not hold, or the bone will not heal. The reasons why a bone graft could fail are specific to the physical area of the graft, where the bone graft itself came from, and outside factors such as smoking, or diabetes.

References:

Lexicomp Online, Bone Grafting (Patient Education), Hudson, Ohio: Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. Available at: <http://0-online.lexi.com.libus.csd.mu.edu/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/disandproc/3762434> [updated: 8/26/2020; Accessed: 9/21/2020].

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