



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COORDINATING OFFICE

Transplants and Grafts

Face Transplants to Address Catastrophic Tissue Loss in the Face

Managed by the Tissue Injury and Regenerative Medicine (TIRM) Program Management Office and sponsored by the US Army Medical Materiel Development Activity (USAMMDA), investigators from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) are conducting clinical trials of face transplantation to offer Wounded Warriors with severe facial disfigurement and dysfunction a new treatment option if standard reconstructive surgeries are inadequate. In FY14, BWH performed the fifth and sixth face transplants under the Biomedical Translation Initiative contract. Both patients are doing well with expected challenges following transplantation. Also in FY14, Cleveland Clinic performed the first face transplant under the AFIRM I cooperative agreement. The patient is doing well. The advancement of the facial transplant procedure offers the possibility of restored function (e.g., chewing, swallowing, nasal breathing, oral competence, intelligible speech) and appearance to who have suffered catastrophic facial injuries.