



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COORDINATING OFFICE

Transplants and Grafts

Hand Transplants with Reduced Immunosuppression

For Service Members who have suffered catastrophic limb loss, hand transplantation offers an alternative to prosthetics, and the potential of improved function with less disability. The University of Louisville, in conjunction with USAMMDA, performed the first hand transplant under the AFIRM II award in November 2014. The graft was removed on postoperative day four for intractable swelling, the cause of which is under investigation. Retired US Army sergeant, Brendan Marrocco, a quadruple amputee who received a double arm transplant at Johns Hopkins University in December 2012, was featured on the front page of the Washington Post on 30 June 2014 doing a pull-up.