



Newcastle Brain Tissue Resource

An established research tissue bank run by Newcastle University in conjunction with local NHS trusts.

Part of the Brains for Dementia Research network (funded by Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK) and the UK Nervous Tissue Network funded by the MRC

Samples are provided to researchers who demonstrate the ethical and scientific soundness of their projects.



Thank you for considering donation

If you would like more information please contact us:

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Donating Brain Tissue for Research

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Why donate brain tissue for research?

As people are living longer, disorders associated with ageing, such as dementia, Parkinson's Disease and stroke are becoming an increasing problem. Scientists need to discover more about how these diseases develop and progress. Other disorders such as mitochondrial and neurological diseases and mental health problems also desperately need further investigation.

By donating brain tissue after death you can make a valuable contribution to medical research. Detailed information about the donor and the presence or absence of particular symptoms increases the usefulness of the tissue, so we might also ask you to complete a short questionnaire-based assessment.

There is still no substitute for examining samples of real brain tissue, including tissue from those without these diseases. It helps us understand how normal ageing affects the brain and which changes underlie particular problems and leads to a better understanding of the causes of disease.

If you are interested in tissue donation, it is usually better to make plans well in advance to allow your family time to discuss it.

What does it involve?

Brain tissue is very specialized, so it is not enough to take just a sample. We need to study the whole brain, as the location, as well as the nature, of any changes may be very important. It can also be very useful to study other bodily samples to find out more about effects on the whole body .

The donation procedure does not take long and there are no visible signs that donation has taken place. There are no extra costs to the donor's family and your funeral arrangements are not delayed. Other than letting us know, there is no extra burden placed on your family.

If you would like to find out more please contact us. We would be happy to answer your questions and talk you through the registration process

