

Transplantation terminology in nasal surgery

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In publications on transplantation of biological and non-biological materials in nasal surgery, authors use different terms when discussing the same subject. The words "transplant", "implant" and "graft", for example, are used in some publications as synonyms, in others as terms with a different meaning. The denomination of the antigenic properties of a certain material can also be confusing because of differences of terminology. The specific use of an international standardized terminology is, therefore, of utmost importance.

TYPE: TRANSPLANT, IMPLANT, GRAFT

Dorland's illustrated dictionary (1981) gives the following definitions:

implant : a material inserted or grafted into the body;

transplant: an organ or tissue taken from the body for grafting into another area of the same body or into another individual;

graft : any tissue or organ for implantation or transplantation.

According to Patka et al. (1985) the term "implant" has to be reserved for materials that do not contain dead or living cells or remnants of cells. It should, therefore, strictly be reserved to indicate the use of non-biological materials like metals, plastics, ceramics, etc.

The terms "transplant" and "graft" are more or less synonyms. From a linguistic point of view we propose to use the term "transplant" as this word already has an international appeal and because of its obvious linguistic relation with the word "implant".

PLACE: ORTHOTOPIC, HETEROTOPIC

Depending on the site of the transplantation two types should be distinguished:

orthotopic : when the position of the transplant in the recipient is identical to the former position in the donor;

heterotopic: when the position of the transplant in the recipient is different from that in the donor.

ANTIGENIC PROPERTIES

Until the seventies the terms "autologous", "homologous" and "heterologous"

were commonly used to indicate the antigenic properties of tissue. The developments in the field of immunology have led to a new terminology in this respect. In modern immunology the original of the material is nominated as follows (Sailer, 1983; Roitt, 1984):

autogeneic transplant : tissue transplanted back on the original donor;

isogeneic transplant : transplant between individuals of identical constitution;

allogeneic transplant : transplant between members of the same species but of different genetic constitution;

xenogeneic transplant: transplant between individuals of different species.

Adopting a new terminology is always an annoying and troublesome process. However, it is clear that international standardization is essential for the progress of science. Table 1 may be useful.

Table 1. Terminology

old terminology	new terminology
autologous	autogeneic
-	isogeneic
homologous	allogeneic
heterologous	xenogeneic

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