## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Hand/arm transplantation is the surgical attachment of a limb from a deceased donor to a living recipient.
- More than 140 hand/arm transplants have been performed worldwide, and 37 have occurred in the U.S.
- ★ A hand/arm transplant may improve a recipient's function, sensation, and mental health.
- ★ Hand/arm transplant recipients should expect about 1–3 years of hand therapy to regain good function.
- Hand/arm transplant recipients must take life-long anti-rejection medications to prevent the body from rejecting the limb.
- Other options for individuals with upper limb loss include prosthetics (e.g., body-powered, myoelectric) to perform activities of daily living.

It is possible for hand/arm transplant recipients to regain function for:







Movement Daily Activities



Manu T.R. and Abdul Rahim are both bilateral hand/arm transplant recipients.

## Scan to visit our website:



## Northwestern University









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An Educational Website About Hand/Arm Transplantation for Adults with Upper Limb Loss



Mr. Pollock, a bilateral hand/arm transplant recipient, demonstrates his hand function.

Visit the website at: www.withinreach.info

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Within Reach website is to educate people about hand/arm transplantation. Within Reach contains comprehensive information about:

- ★ What hand/arm transplantation is
- ★ Who may be eligible
- Potential benefits and risks

Within Reach is designed to be neutral so that patients, families, and health care professionals can make informed treatment decisions.

Within Reach is interactive and contains 188 videos, 29 photos, and 7 graphics.



Mr. White, with unilateral, below-elbow limb loss, is pursuing hand/arm transplantation.

Visit the website at: www.withinreach.info

## TRANSPLANT PROCESS

Evaluation and informed consent processes



Waitlist until a donor is found



**Transplant surgery** 



4-8 weeks of recovery in hospital



Hand therapy for ~1-3 years



Take anti-rejection medication and protect transplant



Dr. Jaimie Shores, Hand/Arm Transplant Surgeon, discusses hand/arm transplantation on the Within Reach website.



Ms. Carter, with bilateral, below-elbow limb loss, would like more in-depth information about hand/arm transplantation before considering whether to pursue it.

# FIND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

- What is the success rate of hand/arm transplantation?
- How do I find out if I am eligible, and what makes someone a good candidate?
- Will the hand/arm transplant work like a healthy hand/arm?
- ★ What are the risks of having a transplanted hand/arm?

Visit our website to find answers to important questions about hand/arm transplants.

Learn what questions to ask your transplant team by downloading the Question Prompt Sheet (QPS) from the Resources tab.

