Welsh patients receive stolen body parts

A dozen people treated in Wales have body parts stolen from a New York funeral parlor. Two facilities have identified a dozen patients who were treated with bone grafts bought from the U.S. company, Biomedical Tissue Services, which is at the center of a body part stealing scandal. Patients received their stolen body parts from University Hospital in Cardiff and Llandough Hospital in the Vale of Glamorgan. Three more patients from the private Bupa Hospital in Cardiff received bone grafts from Biomedical Tissue Services. Hospital managers took the appropriate steps to reassure patients that the risk of infection was minimal.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) made the information public after a Freedom of Information request by the BBC. The stolen body parts scandal emerged last year and New York police are still investigating claims that the managers of Biomedical Tissue Services took body parts without the consent from the next of kin.

In October 2005, it emerged that New Jersey-based Biomedical Tissue Services exported 82 pieces of bone to the UK, which were then grafted on to patients needing hip or jaw operations.

Late last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ordered a recall of potentially tainted products and warned that many patients could have been exposed to HIV and other diseases, but insisted the risk of infection was minimal.

About the Author

The Tokyo Food Page is a complete guide to Japanese cuisine and eating in Tokyo, with recipes, culinary travel tips, and restaurant listing.

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