

## Face transplant man has 'life restored'

### Level 3 • Advanced

#### 1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

recluse  
stitch

transplant  
scarring

scalp  
hairline

rejection  
blend

deformity  
outpatient

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a medical operation in which a new organ, taken from the dead body of another person, is put into someone's body.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a combination of different tastes, styles, qualities, etc. that produces an attractive or effective result.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a short piece of thread that is used for joining someone's skin after it has been cut.
4. A person's \_\_\_\_\_ is the line at the top of their forehead where the hair begins.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a situation in which permanent marks are left on someone's skin as a result of an accident or an operation.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who lives alone and avoids seeing other people.
7. A person's \_\_\_\_\_ is the skin under the hair on their head.
8. An \_\_\_\_\_ procedure is one in which you receive treatment at a hospital but you do not stay overnight.
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the failure of someone's body to accept a new organ in a transplant operation.
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of someone's body that is not the usual shape.

#### 2 Find the information

Scan the article to find the information.

1. How was Richard Norris injured?
2. When did the accident happen?
3. How many people had had a partial or full face transplant before Richard Norris?
4. When did Norris shop for groceries?
5. How many soldiers may be in line for face transplants?
6. How many other potential patients were in the group from which Norris was chosen?

## Face transplant man has 'life restored'

### Level 3 • Advanced

#### Face transplant man Richard Norris has 'life restored'

James Meikle  
28 March, 2012

- 1 When Richard Norris first saw his new face in a mirror, three days after a 36-hour operation to complete the world's most extensive face transplant to date, he was lost for words. But doctors conveyed wonder on his behalf as Norris continued relearning to talk – "this is so cool," one of his surgeons kept repeating. Norris, 37, had lived behind a mask since a gun accident took away his lips, nose and the front part of his tongue in 1997.
- 2 Unusually for victims of facial gun injuries, his vision was largely unaffected, and so, as soon as possible after his surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center, he asked to see the results, doctors reported. On the same day, Norris, of Hillsville, Virginia, told them that he could smell too. The operation took place on 19 and 20 March. A week later, he was able to brush his teeth and shave. His new face, said lead surgeon Eduardo Rodriguez, is "a combination of two individuals, a true blend".
- 3 Norris is the twenty-third person to have had a partial or full face transplant since surgeons in Amiens, France, carried out the first in 2005 on a woman who had been attacked by her dog. A picture of how he looks now shows just how his face has changed since his high-school graduation in 1993, and since the gun accident that destroyed much of his face. Stitches along his hairline and neck and scarring round the eyelids showed the extent of his surgery.
- 4 Norris had been living as a recluse, avoiding eating in public and shopping for groceries at night. Since the accident, of which the hospital revealed few details, he has not had a full-time job and has already undergone numerous life-saving and reconstructive operations. "This accidental injury just destroyed everything," said Rodriguez. "His friends and colleagues went on to start getting married, having children, owning homes. He wants to make up for all that."
- 5 The operation, which involved more than 150 doctors, nurses and other staff, was just part of a remarkable 72 hours in which surgeons also transplanted a heart, both lungs, a liver and a kidney from the same anonymous donor, to other patients. For Norris, the surgeons transplanted teeth, the upper and lower jaw, a portion of the tongue and all facial tissue from the scalp to the base of the neck.
- 6 The most dramatic moment, according to Rodriguez, came after the team had removed all previous attempts at reconstruction. All that was left was part of Norris's tongue and minimal protection for his eyes. That was the point of no return. "At this point we had to be successful." Now, however, Norris's face will require only minor, outpatient procedures.
- 7 Many developments in Baltimore have been made possible by US defence and naval research departments, which have provided funding for face and hand operations for wounded soldiers. More than 1,000 troops have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan and the government believes up to 200 may be eligible for face transplants. Doctors say they hope to operate on military patients soon.
- 8 "This miraculous event" for doctors and for Norris occurred after he was chosen from five potential patients, said Rodriguez. The selection process had included psychological testing. He described Norris's reaction to seeing a mirror "as one of the most emotional moments for him as well as for all of us. He put down the mirror and thanked me and hugged me, which was a wonderful gift ..." The operation, said Rodriguez, had "restored the 15 years he had lost. We are making him a functioning member of society again."
- 9 Rolf Barth, a transplant surgeon, said researchers had found there were fewer rejections with transplants involving a large amount of bone marrow with its own blood supply. Norris would have to take immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of his life to keep his body from rejecting the donated face. "This was the perfect patient to put into practice what we had discovered in the laboratory," he said.

## Face transplant man has 'life restored'

### Level 3 • Advanced

10 The final word, at a press conference to explain the surgery, lay with Rodriguez's summing up of Norris's operation: "It is a surreal experience to look at him. It's hard not to stare. Before, people used to stare at Richard because he wore a mask and they wanted to see the deformity ... Now they

have another reason to look at him, and it is really amazing."

© Guardian News and Media 2012

First published in *The Guardian*, 28/03/12

### 3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

1. How will Norris prevent his body from rejecting his new face?
  - a. by using a lot of bone marrow with its own blood supply
  - b. by taking immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of his life
  - c. by undergoing more reconstructive operations
2. How long did the operation to transplant Norris's new face take?
  - a. 72 hours
  - b. 36 hours
  - c. The text doesn't say.
3. When was the most dramatic moment of the transplant operation, according to the lead surgeon?
  - a. when Norris first saw his new face in a mirror
  - b. when the surgeons transplanted a heart, both lungs, a liver and a kidney to other patients
  - c. when the team of surgeons had removed all previous attempts at reconstructing Norris's face
4. Why did people used to stare at Norris?
  - a. because his new face looks so amazing
  - b. because he wore a mask
  - c. because his deformity shocked them

### 4 Find the word

Find the following words and expressions in the text.

1. a three-word expression meaning *so surprised or shocked that you do not know what to say* (para 1)
2. a two-word expression meaning *mostly unchanged by an event or situation* (para 2)
3. a three-word phrasal verb meaning *experience something good, so that something bad seems less important* (para 4)
4. a five-word expression meaning *the moment at which it becomes impossible to change or stop something* (para 6)
5. an adjective meaning *allowed by law or rules to receive something* (para 7)
6. an adjective meaning *extremely lucky and unexpected* (para 8)
7. a two-word noun meaning *the soft substance inside bones* (para 9)
8. an adjective meaning *so strange that you cannot believe it is real* (para 10)

## Face transplant man has 'life restored'

### Level 3 • Advanced

#### 5 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column.

- |            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 1. undergo | a. place                |
| 2. provide | b. into practice        |
| 3. take    | c. details              |
| 4. reject  | d. funding              |
| 5. put     | e. an operation         |
| 6. reveal  | f. a transplanted organ |

#### 6 Word-building

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

- Norris's vision was largely \_\_\_\_\_ by the accident. [AFFECT]
- Doctors have described it as a \_\_\_\_\_ event. [MIRACLE]
- This was the world's most \_\_\_\_\_ face transplant. [EXTENT]
- He had already undergone several \_\_\_\_\_ operations. [RECONSTRUCT]
- The developments in Baltimore have been made possible by US defence and \_\_\_\_\_ research departments. [NAVY]
- The surgeons transplanted \_\_\_\_\_ tissue from the scalp to the base of the neck. [FACE]

#### 7 Discussion

What do you think it would be like to live with a face transplanted from another person?

## Face transplant man has 'life restored'

### Level 3 • Advanced

#### KEY

#### 1 Key words

1. transplant
2. blend
3. stitch
4. hairline
5. scarring
6. recluse
7. scalp
8. outpatient
9. rejection
10. deformity

#### 2 Find the information

1. in a gun accident
2. in 1997
3. 22
4. at night
5. up to 200
6. four

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. b

#### 4 Find the word

1. lost for words
2. largely unaffected
3. make up for
4. the point of no return
5. eligible
6. miraculous
7. bone marrow
8. surreal

#### 5 Verb + noun collocations

1. e
2. d
3. a
4. f
5. b
6. c

#### 6 Word-building

1. unaffected
2. miraculous
3. extensive
4. reconstructive
5. naval
6. facial

#### Teacher's note

You can find out more information about Richard Norris's face transplant, including before and after pictures and videos, at the University of Maryland website: <http://www.umm.edu/facetransplant/>

Alternatively, type *Richard Norris face transplant* into a search engine.