

# Penis transplant hailed

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EXPERTS from Stellenbosch University and Tygerberg Academic Hospital have performed a second penile transplant, making it the first medical centre in the world to successfully perform this groundbreaking procedure twice.

The university's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Division of Urology head, Professor André van der Merwe, led the marathon operation of nine and a half hours on April 21 at Tygerberg Hospital.

The team consisted of Van der Merwe; the university's Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery acting head Dr Alexander Zühlke; Department of Medicine head Professor Rafique Moosa; the varsity's Division of Urology Dr Amir Zarrabi and transplant and trauma surgeon Dr Zamira Keyser.

The world's first successful penile transplant was performed by Van der Merwe and his team at Tygerberg Hospital in December 2014. The

patient is doing well physically and mentally, Van der Merwe said.

This time the recipient was a 40-year-old man who had lost his penis 17 years ago due to complications after a traditional circumcision. The man, originally from the Northern Cape, was circumcised in Khayelitsha.

He received the penis of a 29-year-old white man. A colour discrepancy between the recipient and the donor organ will be corrected with medical tattooing between six to eight months, with doctors positive he will have a perfect result.

The man is still experiencing swelling, but he is recovering well. "He went through a very difficult time (before surgery); he was depressed and suicidal.

"But this guy has a lot of tenacity and he is really positive," Van der Merwe said.

He was among 12 on a waiting list. The man is expected to regain all urinary and reproductive functions of the organ within six months.