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Health

# Bones? They are made with wood

May 11, 2022



FROM the tropical regions of Africa and Asia to the operating room. A perfect example of how nature, mixed with [technology](#), can come to the rescue of medicine. we are talking about b.Bone, a biocompatible and absorbable bone substitute derived from the wood of rattan palms, similar to natural bones in terms of chemistry and architecture.

## From wood to biotech bones

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### In operating rooms from June

b.Bone will be available from next June, distributed in Italy by Abiogen Pharma. It can be produced in any shape and size, and modeled directly by surgeons: it will be used above all to treat large bone defects (cavities and gaps) due to trauma (including post-operative), benign tumors and complex nonunion. In the future, however, its use may be extended to problems related to infections, bone neoplasms or spinal fusions.

DARIO RUBINO


 The idea of using a wood derivative comes from the Italian company GreenBone Ortho, which produces biomaterials for orthopedic reconstructive surgery. Some precise characteristics of wood – elasticity, lightness and strength – prompted its researchers to study this material as a possible bone substitute, also thanks to a research project of the Institute of Science and [Technology](#) for Ceramics – ISTECCNR of Faenza, the city where the company also resides. The choice then fell on rattan wood for its particular porous structure, maintained in the derivative product (which

has obtained the CE mark since December 2019). This structure – reports GreenBone Ortho – promotes vascularization and the exchange of biological fluids, as observed in studies *in vivo*. Other characteristics that make it a good candidate are osseointegration, osteoconduction and the formation of new bone tissue, which improve recovery: the patient’s cells, in fact, progressively reabsorb the biotech derivative and replace it with new tissue.

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