# Chinese man's leg proves handy solution after arm severed 

December 172013

Doctors in China kept a man's severed hand alive for a month by attaching it to his leg, before restoring it to its usual position, a report said Tuesday.

The 25-year-old, identified by his nickname Xiao Wei, had his right hand sawn off by a drilling machine at work last month in Changde, in the central province of Hunan, the Xiaoxiang Morning Herald said.

The damage was too severe to re-attach the hand immediately, so surgeons in the provincial capital Changsha grafted it onto his lower leg, just above his Achilles tendon, to keep it alive while the healing process began.

Severed limbs can be saved if their blood supply is restored within several hours of their amputation, depending on the circumstances.

Earlier this month, doctors removed the hand and successfully reattached it to Xiao Wei's arm in a nine-hour operation, said the newspaper.

He will have to go through several further operations and rehabilitation therapy to restore the limb's function, it added.
"It's just like building a house," the paper quoted Tang Juyu, Xiao Wei's primary doctor, as saying. "Currently the main body is established. There will have to be interior decorations in the future."

## Medical press

## © 2013 AFP

Citation: Chinese man's leg proves handy solution after arm severed (2013, December 17) retrieved 20 March 2024 from https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-12-chinese-leg-handy-solution-arm.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.

