



THE KIDNEY CARE SOCIETY

A COMPREHENSIVE INITIATIVE TO COMBAT KIDNEY DISEASE

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Reg No: S/ IL / 92426 of 2012-2013 West Bengal Society Registration Act XXVI of 1961

Few Facts About Cadaveric Organ Donation

Introduction: Failure of vital organs like kidney liver heart is very common and serious health problem nowadays. Though with improvement of supportive care patients with organ failure can live a compromised life for few more years but only intervention that can offer them near normal life is Organ Transplantation. Now organs cannot be manufactured someone need to donate. A living person can donate one of his two kidneys, part of liver but cannot donate heart cornea or other vital organs. Unfortunately there are scarcity of organ donors and gross mismatch between demand and availability. If we look at the statistics of our own country, in India roughly we need 1,75000 kidney transplantation per year, to save our kidney failure patients however due to scarcity of donors and other issues hardly we can perform 5000 kidney transplantation. Similarly with regards to liver failure where we need roughly 50,000 liver transplantation a year, as per our national need hardly we can perform 700liver transplantation a year. Same level of demand supply mismatch is there in regard to heart failure patients (50,000 vs 30, pancreas, and blind patients (100000 vs 25000). The only plausible solution to bridge the gap of huge demand supply mismatch is more and more cadaver organ donation and successful cadaver transplantation programme.

We are talking about cadaver transplant but what is a Cadaver?

In a critically sick patient when there is permanent loss of brainstem function ie patient cannot take breath on his own and is fully dependent on ventilator, not sensing light sound or pain, a patient can be certified as dead even his heart is beating. It is approved all over the world even in our country brainstem death is legally accepted as death. After the brain stem death gradually over time the heart stops and cardiac death happens. The interface between certification of brainstem death to occurrence of cardiac death a patient is called cadaver. After brain stem death there is no scope of survival, but if timely intervention is done some of his organs like kidney liver heart can be transplanted to respective organ failure patient who need those organs. However after cardiac death as circulation stops, all the organs start decaying and they are of no use.



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If after Brain stem death a person is otherwise dead why do common people hesitate to donate organ?

The reason is just lack of awareness. We need to understand life starts with breath not by heartbeat. Similarly life ends with cessation of capacity to take breath. As breathing and heart beating is inter connected once someone fails to take breath automatically his hearts stops and conventionally we call someone as dead. But with advancement of medical science it is possible when some ones breathe stops permanently with ventilator and other critical care support to keep his heart beating for few hours to days. All over the world people accept brain stem death as death and hence they don't hesitate to donate organ. But in our country though government has legalized brain death certification till awareness regarding this area is gleam and people still believes cardiac death as death and hesitate to take decision for organ donation and hence huge number of healthy organs which otherwise could be transplanted are wasted.

My near and dear one is dying and doctors are telling about organ donation how should I accept that?

We need to understand one hard reality of life that death is inevitable. Everyone who has born, enjoyed life has to die one day. Question of organ donation comes when someone is brainstem dead but still some of his organ has not yet decayed and can be transplanted. We need to understand clearly brainstem death is medically and legally accepted death all over the world. There is no scope of survival after brain stem death. If we don't accept this hard reality ultimately cardiac death happens and the organs which otherwise could be transplanted to save some one's life will be decayed and they need to be either burned or buried. In all civilized society people accept this reality and come forward for donation. In my view donation of organ after brainstem death makes a person partially alive in some one's body after his / her death. In Spain every 32 death one donation happens where as in India the rate of donation is 0.6 in per 10,000 deaths.

Can a person who dies at home donate his organs?

We need to understand once heart stops, blood circulation stops and major internal organs like kidney, liver, heart, pancreas starts decaying and hence they cannot be transplanted. In majority of the household death we don't gets the opportunity to harvest healthy organs and hence their utilization as circulation stops permanently. However cornea, skin, bone, heart valves can be harvested and transplanted if collected in proper time.



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What are the common organs a brain stem dead person can donate?

Two kidney to two renal failure patient, one liver to one liver failure patient (sometime in part can be donated to two recipient), heart to one heart failure patient, two lungs to two respiratory failure patients, two cornea to two blind patient. Other organ or tissue, which also can be of use, is pancreas, intestine, skin, bone, heart valves. In other word a brainstem death person can save life of so many organ failure patients, he can remain alive in so many persons life.

Whom to contact for Organ Donation?

If you take decision of organ donation of your near and dear relatives who is critically sick please express your concern to treating physician or hospital management or ROTTO office immediately the necessary steps would be taken.

Is there any re-imburement if someone donates organ to their family?

The organ donation means organs which otherwise could be burned or buried are utilized for noble cause of saving some one's life. There cannot be any financial benefit in this regards and law does not permits any such activities. However once brain stem death declared since then to till transplant of the organs all expense should be beard by hospital, legally hospital cannot charge to patient's relative.

Is cadaveric transplantation is happening in India?

Yes in recent time there is significant improvement in general people's awareness about cadaveric organ donation and transplantation. In Chennai, west India like Mumbai, Gujarat, north India like Delhi, Indore cadaveric transplant is regular happening. Slowly Bengal is also gearing up. In 2016, since June to December 6 cadaveric organ donation took place in the city of Kolkata, this year a week ago another cadaveric organ donation took place in SSKM hospital. More and more public awareness in needed in this regard and mass media and all stakeholders needs to selflessly involve in this noble cause.