

**Organ Donation:**



# What is Organ Donation?

- ❑ Organ donation means taking the healthy organs and tissues from a dead, dying or living person and transplant it to another person.
- ❑ Organ transplantation is a life saving process in which the failing or damage organ is removed through surgical operation and is replaced with a functioning organ. An organ can be from a deceased or living donor, and in some cases, from animals.
- ❑ Cadaveric organ donation involves the removal of organs from a donor who recently died.
- ❑ Living organ donation is donating an organ or a paired organ, part of organ, or tissue. The organ system of the donor is still functioning after the donation.
- ❑ Transplantation of organs becomes very complex due to the respective beliefs, symbols, sentiments, emotions, rituals, and practices evoked by the human body.
- ❑ The chief limiting factor for organ donation is that not more than half of the families of the potential donors would consent to organ donation.

Stevens, et al., 2008; Childress, 2001; University of Minnesota database, 2008

# Organ Donors in the U.S. Population

- ❑ In the U.S., it was reported that more than \$4 billion total value of life was lost annually due to death, waiting for organ transplantation. Over a period of time, the excess demands for organs has been increasing.
- ❑ Between 1995 – 2000, the identified number of patients waiting for organ transplantation increased by 80%.
- ❑ In 2003, more than 24,000 organ transplants are conducted in the U.S. While more than 80,000 patients were still waiting for organ donation.
- ❑ On the other hand, the number of cadaveric donors sprang up by less than 12 percent (cited from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2002).
- ❑ The shortage of available organs for transplants gave rise to the moral and ethical issues that surrounds organ procurement and distribution.
- ❑ One views organ donation as permissible despite the discriminatory reference for the reason that patients would benefit from it and no harm will be caused.
- ❑ The field of organ transplantation has evolved over the past 45 years, and has developed into a well – established therapy for a variety of irreversible organ failure.

Mokan & Tekin, 2005; Women's Health USA 2004; University of Minnesota database, 2008; Troug, 2005; Weber, et al., 1998

# Factors that Influence Organ Donation

- Gender – females are more likely to be living donors than males
- Race - whites are more expected to donate by 14% than other races
- Religious affiliations – Catholics are less likely to donate as compared to Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist or adherents of some other religion.
- Political beliefs – individuals who classifies themselves as liberal are more likely to donate than those who are on the right political spectrum.
- Standard of living – those who have high income are likely to donate.
- Education of the Mother – children of well –educated mothers' are likely to donate than those who are less educated.
- Education and activity in the labor market – individuals who are educated and are working are more likely to donate.
- Past experience – individuals who had accidents in the past are more likely to donate.

(Mocan & Tekin, 2005; Sheehy, et al, 2003)

# Organs and Tissues That Can Be Donated

- Organs that can be donated are the following:
  - (1) Heart
  - (2) Intestines
  - (3) Liver
  - (4) Pancreas
  - (5) Kidneys – the most common organ transplanted
  - (6) Lungs
- Tissues that can be donated are:
  - (1) Corneas
  - (2) Heart Valve
  - (3) Skin
  - (4) Bones
  - (5) Ligaments
  - (6) Tendons
  - (7) Vascular tissues

Stevens, et al., 2008; Abecassis, et al, 2000; LifeCenter  
Northwest Organ Donation Network, 2006

# Ethical and Moral Issues

- ❏ Donation of organs by living donors presents a unique ethical dilemma since the life of a healthy person is placed at risk by the physician to save the life of the recipient.
- ❏ The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 1984 states that the human organ cannot be bought nor be sold in the U.S. Hence, violators are subject to fines and imprisonments. The term “black market sale” is not possible since organs that are recovered must undergo vigorous testing to be matched appropriately to the recipient fitted. According to the national policy, organs are distributed and established and monitored by United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS).
- ❏ The organ donation is a confidential procedure. Therefore, pressure is not placed on the families of the donor or transplant recipients in order to meet or contact with one another.
- ❏ The possibility of buying and selling an organ is strictly prohibited by law. However, the need of a patient and a healthy donor to fix their financial problem will always find ways.













(Troug, 2005)

# Ethical and Moral Issues

- ❏ While organ transplant is becoming safer and outcomes are improving, donation rules and fair organ allocation struggled to keep its pace. Great public awareness of the shortage of organs to be donated leads to more donation; however, doubts on the safety of donation by living donors and the integrity of the process of allocation jeopardizes the trust of the public.
- ❏ The chronic shortage of voluntary donation of organ all over the world led one to believe that an act executing prisoners from China to donate principal organs can be justified. The involvement of medical practitioners in the execution and in the process of transplantation constitutes a grave violation of the accepted standards of medical behavior.
- ❏ In some cases, the organ donor becomes closer to his organ receptor and in return, the organ receptor treats the newly owned transplanted organ with care.

Steinbrook, 2005; Human Rights Watch, 1994; Marcos, 2005

# Emotions Felt by the Family of the Donor

-  Grief
-  Anger
-  Blame
-  Guilt search for meaning
-  Questions of faith
-  Loss
-  Emptiness
-  Stress
-  Helplessness
-  Anxiety
-  Acceptance
-  Opposition – families worry about the possible risk

Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005; Punch, 2007; LODAP  
2005

# Feedback from the Family of the Organ Donor

- Positive feedback
- The overall experience of sadness turned into a good feeling of glimmer.
- The act of their loved ones who died often makes the family very proud of their action.









Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005; Punch, 2007

# Emotional and Psychological Issues of the Organ Donors before Transplantation

- ❑ The desire of the living donor to donate prior to transplantation is based on emotions. The main driving factor of the living donor to donate is the emotion of love for the fellow human being who needs the organ.
- ❑ This emotional relationship becomes evident between the donor and the recipient, and is oftentimes intensified after a successful transplant.
- ❑ Emotional and Psychological Issues Evident from the Donors:
  - (1) Anxiety
  - (2) Fear
  - (3) Stress
  - (4) Empathy
  - (5) Satisfaction
  - (6) Compassion
- ❑ Anxiety and stress can be great prior to transplantation since some donors have not experienced surgery and still do not know what to expect on the procedure.

Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005

# Emotional and Psychological Issues of the Organ Donors after Successful Transplantation

-  Spiritual awakening
-  Greater appreciation to life
-  Sense of responsibility towards the outcome of the recipient
-  Physical and emotional healing
-  Peace
-  Comfort
-  Tremendously courageous
-  The donor becomes generous









Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005

# Emotional and Psychological Issues of the Organ Donors after Failed Transplantation

- ❑ Depression or sensitivity of emotions – this should not be taken lightly. Other donors would resort to suicide. Therefore, must be addressed and resolved.
- ❑ Extreme anger
- ❑ Questioning
- ❑ Self – blame
- ❑ Sorrow
- ❑ Sense of futility
- ❑ Overwhelming feeling of loss
- ❑ Conclude life as unfair
- ❑ Bitter outlook towards life
- ❑ Emotionally distant from others
- ❑ The death of the recipient takes a lot of hard work for the organ donor to accept the death. This involves a long and difficult process of letting go.








Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005; LODAP, 2005

# The Grieving Experience of the Donor after Failed Transplantation

-  Long period of sorrow
-  Questions on the fundamental beliefs
-  Struggle towards the meaning of life
-  Self – blame
-  Betrayed
-  Angry
-  Unfulfilled
-  Feel stuck and could not seem to move forward to the normal rhythm of life








Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005; LODAP, 2005

# Emotions Felt by Organ Recipient Before the Transplantation

-  Frustration – this can be attributed to the delay of procedure
-  Anxiousness - the patient becomes worried and nervous on the procedure and the probable result of the transplantation
-  Stress - for the possible transplantation outcome
-  Discomfort
-  Watchful waiting
-  Hopeful
-  Patience






Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005; LODAP, 2005

# Other Transplant Emotions felt by the Recipients

-  Waitlist anxiety
-  Mix emotions: happy, scared, anxious, confused
-  Frustrated and stressed especially upon seeing that someone has “passed over” the transplant list
-  Feeling of guilt – thinking that someone died for you to live
-  Social isolation and illness
-  Loss of control and dependence to others
-  Separation anxiety and regaining independence

Parr, et al., 2001

# Emotions Felt by Organ Recipient After the Transplantation

-  Gratefulness
-  Thankfulness
-  Relief
-  Watchful waiting for the possible rejections
-  Hope and future full of promises

Lopez Martinez, et al., 2008; Marcos, et. al., 2005

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# THANK YOU!

