



Promoting Organ Donation

Organ donations can be made by both dead and living people. In Hong Kong, the rate of deceased donation is currently among the lowest in the world: 6.3 per million*, seven times lower than in Spain. Yet, every day, more than 2,000 patients wait for vital organ transplants. Why is there such a shortage of donors – living and deceased – while patients die waiting?

This survey found that only 6.6% of the 527 respondents had signed up or registered as organ donors even though more than half were willing to do so. They said the main barriers were lack of clarity about registration procedures and lack of time.

A large majority agreed that their donations could be life-saving but over a quarter considered themselves either too young to think about it or were concerned about objections from their families.



*More details IRODaT, International Registry of Organ Donation and Transplantation at irodat.org/

Comments from Youth I.D.E.A.S. think tank members

Aaron Mou, deputy convener Generally, Hong Kong's teenagers are willing to participate in organ donation although some say they don't have the time or find the procedures for registering unclear. Since a territory-wide identity card replacement exercise will start soon, we recommend that anyone applying for the new card be asked if they want to join an optional organ donor programme. This should make the process more efficient and could significantly boost the number of registered donors.

Ronald Chan & Petra Pun, group members We recommend that Hong Kong hospitals make reference to the end-of-life care practice in Spain where deceased donation is optimized and possible donors who are brain-dead can be admitted to an intensive care unit. The government should also expand the number of Organ Transplant Coordinators from the current total of just nine for all Hong Kong hospitals to two in each hospital cluster.

Jenny Liu & David Li, group members Educating the public about the ways in which a healthy lifestyle can prevent suffering from organ failure is a top priority. Also, subsidies should be available for living organ donors who normally stop work and have to stay in hospital for up to six to eight weeks. A government subsidy from the Community Care Fund, equivalent to at least two months paid leave at the same rate as the minimum wage, should be given to them.

Understanding brain death

Brain death, including the brain stem, involves the irreversible loss of brain function. When the brain stem response completely disappears together with the ability to breathe independently, doctors formally declare a patient's death. Under these circumstances, family members may be asked to understand that their loved one has died and that organ donation is an option that could give life to others.

Read more organdonation.gov.hk/eng/introduction_bsd.html

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More details [in Chinese]

yrc.hkfyg.org.hk/wp-content/uploads/sites/56/2018/02/YI028SL-Full-Report-for-Press-04.pdf

Enquiries Beji Ho 3755 7042