

Organ Donation - A gift for life

by Rajendra Srivastava

Donating organs saves and enhances the quality of life of people needing them. Millions of people lose vital organs due to accidents or they may be born with congenital abnormalities to begin with. Organ donation is more important than monetary or other asset donations in my opinion. Organ donation involves complex procedures due to legal, medical and surgical requirements associated with it. That impedes the process and, many a time, discourages a willing donor from offering the gift of life.



affect adversely the physical, emotional and psychological health of the donor. The team also ensures that the organ being removed is fit for storage and transplant.

In the Indian context, it's important to know that the Hindu religion (80% of the Indians are Hindus) does not object to organ donation. In ancient times, sage Dadhichi donated his bones to Devas to create 'Vajra' Astra (a potent weapon) to defeat the Asuras.

In Mahabharata (a Hindu epic) Karna, the noble antagonist donated his three body parts including his gold tooth to Lord Indra to the benefit of his own enemies. According to the Hindu religion, the real self is soul that doesn't die whereas the body is mortal and disposable. Therefore, one should not grieve for the body. This ideology clearly paves the way for organ donation residing in one's physical body.

Notwithstanding, there is an acute dearth of human organs' availability around the globe for people needing an organ transplant. Other factors holding back potential donors from donating organs are a lack of awareness about the criticality of organ donation and inhibitions about donating organs even to their loved ones needing an organ transplant to survive another day.

It's time to spread the awareness about the need of organ donation. The governments need to ease the legal and medical formalities and procedure related to organ donations. We need to motivate more people to donate organs and thereby improve the quality of life of the persons needing vital gifts of life.

An organ can be donated by a living person himself and also by a person who is dead (through his next of kin). There is no age limit for donating an organ by a living person. Recently in March 2020 in USA, a very old person aged 92 years was a donor. However, it is essential that a donor does not suffer from cancer, or hepatitis or contagious diseases. The surgical team that removes the organ should be satisfied that the removal of the organ will not

Please see some important information related to organ donations mentioned below. You may also visit www.OrganDonor.gov or www.notto.gov.in for more information.

What can be donated?	Deceased Organ Donation	Tissues Donation
One kidney	Both kidneys	Epithelial tissues

One lung	Both lungs	Connective tissues
A portion of liver / pancreas/ intestines	Both livers	Muscle tissues
Cornea	Cornea	Nervous tissues
Blood and Platelets	Heart	
	Pancreas	
	Intestines	
	Face	
	Both hands	

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