

DONATION PROJECT AND IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS

A.I.D.O.

The Italian Association for the Donation of Organs, Tissues and Cells (A.I.D.O.) is a volunteer, non-partisan, non-denominational and interethnic organization. It is composed of citizens in favor of voluntary donation, anonymous and free of charge, of organs and tissues after the death for therapeutic transplantation.

It is present throughout the national territory with 21 regional offices, 104 provincial branches and 1,028 municipal groups. Currently it has more than 1,400,000 members.

Since its establishment (1973), A.I.D.O. has been a landmark and an example of dialogue and interlocution between civil society and institutions.

WHY DONATE

Transplantation is an extraordinary resource of modern medicine. A transplant can save the life of a patient, enable a better living condition to those who are obliged to a long and painful therapies like dialysis or allow to regain the sight to those who had lost it. People after transplantation return to work, to have children, to travel, to practice sports and to make plans for the future.

WHEN DOES THE DONATION TAKE PLACE

The removal of organs and tissues for transplantation takes place only after the death of the person has been ascertained, which occurred in spite of everything possible has been done to save him.

The organ donors are people of any age who die in the hospital in intensive care units due to an irreversible brain damage (due to hemorrhage, head trauma, aneurysm etc.) or a prolonged cardiac arrest, which have produced the complete destruction of brain cells. When death occurs due to the cessation of all brain activity, it is possible to maintain artificially the blood circulation and respiration of the deceased keeping active, for a limited time, his organs.

The certification of complete death is carried out, according to the law, by a commission formed by three specialists (a legal doctor, an anesthetist resuscitator and a neurologist). They perform clinical examinations to determine, for at least six consecutive hours, the contemporary absence of reflexes such as brain responses to painful stimuli, spontaneous breath, consciousness, or any electrical activity of the brain.

THE CHOICE TO DONATE

The Italian legislation gives the individual in life the right to express favorably or not on the donation of organs and tissues. The statement of intention to donate organs is regulated by the Law no. 91 of 1 April 1999 and by the Ministerial Decree of 8 April 2000. Expressing in life the consent to organ donation is a conscious choice. It is possible to inform and to talk about it in the family sharing the decision and making sure that it will be respected.

How

You can express consent or objection to organ donation and modify at any time the expressed intention.

In the presence of a statement of intention (positive or negative) to the donation, the family can not object to the choice made in life by their relative. Having ascertained the willingness of the potential donor, the doctors will proceed to the removal in the event of a positive expressed intention.

In the absence of an explicit statement of intention to donate, the doctors will perform the removal if there is no opposition from the family members.

Where

Those who have completed the age of majority can express the intention on donation of organs and tissues in the following ways:

- at the appropriate counters of the Healthcare office that one belongs to;
- at the registry office of the municipalities that have already activated the service of intention declaration;
- by registering to the Italian Association for the donation of organs, tissues and cells (AIDO) for the sole positive intention;
- filling out the blue card sent by the Ministry of Health in 2000 or the cards prepared by associations for the donors and patients;
- with a statement on plain paper complete with personal data, dated and signed.

The statements of intention (Le dichiarazioni di volontà), together with those collected by AIDO, are recorded in the Informative System of Transplants (SIT); with the exception of plain paper declaration, the blue card and the DonorCard. All statements, including those unregistered in the SIT, are still considered valid under the law.

ANONYMITY - FREE OF CHARGE - RESPECT

It is impossible to know the name of the donor nor the recipient because the law guarantees the anonymity of both parties.

The organs are allocated according to the conditions of urgency and the clinical and immunological compatibility of the persons awaiting transplants.

It is illegal to buy or sell human organs: the donation is always voluntary, free and anonymous.

The costs of the transplant are paid by the National Health Service.

Organs and tissues are taken with the greatest respect of the deceased. After the removal, the body of the deceased is available to the family for burial procedures.

LIVING DONATION OF ORGANS AND TISSUES

The kidney and part of the liver, lung, pancreas and intestine, hematopoietic stem cells (from bone marrow, peripheral blood and cord blood), skin, placenta and bone segments can be donated.

All other organs and tissues can be donated only after death.

Exceptions are the brain and the gonads that can not be donated.

THE RELIGIONS

The main religions are in favor of organ donation. All recommend that the donation should be a matter of free choice and should not be forced.

“It is about the gift of our bodies and our possessions in Buddhism. It is about the gift of all our merits and our virtues.

There’s even a way to donate their organs in the Buddhist tradition when the person is still alive. In this case this should be in harmony with the level of our practices.

When we are dead it is very useful that the body could serve to help others. After death there are no obstacles.”

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

“Those who would treat me, would take care of those who are ill”

Mahavagga VIII.26, 1 – 8

“Donating an organ can become a great gesture of communion which gives someone else a hope and a dream of a new life. I pray that the culture of organ donation will spread in our society through the creation of this network “

The Myon, Buddhist monk and director of the Buddhist-operated Life Share Association

“Organ donation is considered acceptable in Theravada Buddhism. To extend generous assistance to other sentient beings is a Buddhist virtue, and this regards the case of organ donation “

Phramaha Laow Panyasiri, Abbot of The Buddhavihara Temple

Allah (SWT) says in the Koran:
“...And if one could give life to another person, it will be as if he had saved the whole humanity”

Verse 32 of Surah no.5

An authentic Prophet “saying” affirms:
“There is no illness that God would creat if He had not also created the cure”

“If you happen to be ill and need a transplant; definitely you would like someone else’s help giving you the necessary organ”.

Shaykh Zaki Badawi, Muslim College / London

The Council of Islamic Law in Britain stated that:

- 1) The doctor is the authority that can define the signs of death
- 2) The current medical knowledge considers the cerebral arrest a definition of death
- 3) The Council accepts the cerebral arrest as the end of life for the purpose of organ transplants
- 4) The Council sustains the organ transplantation as a means to relieve pain or to save lives on the basis of the conditions of Shariah
- 5) The Muslims can have the donor card
- 6) The next of kin of the deceased, even in the absence of a donation card, can give consent to donate their organs to save other lives
- 7) Organ donation must be free without any recompense
- 8) The selling of organs is prohibited

Within this world, we must seize the opportunity to selfless actions toward others (SEVA), then we would have the opportunity to reside in the divine abode.

Guru Nanak

“Solidarity and the help to those who suffer are the fundamental principles of Judaism; organ donation is an act of great solidarity and of ethical value, in which the need to save a human life is more important than the possible offense to the integrity of the corpse”

Chief Rabbinate of Israel

In Hindu scriptures, the 10 Niyamas namely the 10 virtuous actions are cited: the third is Daan, the gift of one self. The only condition for the act to be morally right is one that produces a beneficial effect.

“.. Men reach perfection performing each his own specific dharma (fulfillment of duties)..”

Bhagavad Gita

“The free gift of organs after death is legitimate and can be meritorious”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The technique of transplants has proven to be a valuable tool in achieving the primary goal of the art of medicine, the service to human life. Therefore, in the Encyclical Letter Evangelium vitae I recalled that, among the gestures that contribute to fuel a genuine culture of life, “the donation of organs performed in an ethically acceptable manner that deserves a special appreciation by offering a chance of health and even of life to the sick who sometimes have no other hope”(no.86)

John Paul II

“On the basis of divine revelation, the church professes faith in the resurrection of the flesh from the dead. In Christian funeral rite, the Church expresses due respect to the body of a deceased. However, the post-mortem donation of organs and tissues can become an expression of love that extends even beyond death “

Orthodox church

THE STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION.

If you want to fill out the form, tear it off and send it to:

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Via Cola di Rienzo 243
00192 Roma