

Organ Donation



"Be a Life Saver"

Organ donation and transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories of this century. Besides eyes and kidneys, it is also possible to transplant other organs like heart, lungs, liver and pancreas. Other tissues like skin, bone, cartilage, veins, arteries, heart valves can also be transplanted. To make all these transplants possible in India and thus alleviate the suffering of many patients, the Government of India in 1994 passed an Act called "Transplantation of Human Organs Act".

What is an organ donation?

Organ donation is the gift of an organ to a person who needs a transplant. It's a procedure in which a healthy organ is taken from an individual who is declared "brain dead" and transplanted into a person whose own organ is not functioning properly. Donated organs give the recipients the opportunity of a longer and better quality of life.





Who can be a donor?

Any man or woman of any race, religion or age can donate his or her organs. A transplant team will judge the medical stability of donated organs when the time comes to use them. Taking our organs is dignified procedure, it does not disfigure the body and does not interfere in anyway in final rites.

Can people buy or sell organs?

No, the "Transplantation of Human Organ Act" prohibits any commercial dealings in organs and makes this a punishable offence.

Does organ - donation leave the body disfigured?

No, the recovery of organ is carried out by well-trained surgeons with the greatest care and does not disfigure the body or change the way it looks.

Are there any religious objections to organ donation?

Most of the religious groups support the concept of organ donation. However, if you have any doubt you can discuss it with your spiritual or religious leader.

Can one donate organs anytime after their death?

No. The person has to be brain dead and should be in an ICU-on ventilator support with stable hemodynamic conditions. Brain death is the death that results from total, irreversible loss of all brains functions, due to a severe head injury, illness or disease. A person's heart will still beat for a period of time after they become "brain dead".

Who will receive my organs?

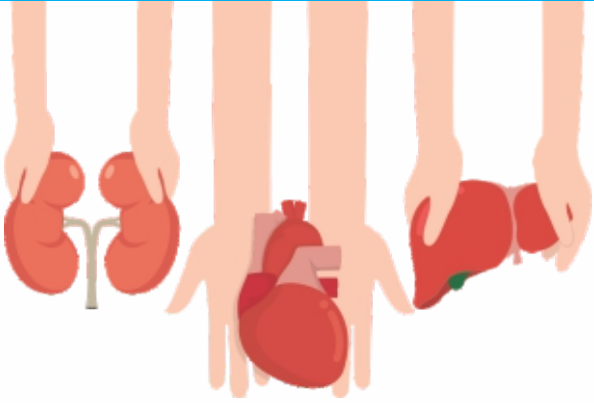
Your organs will be transplanted into those patients who need them urgently. Recipient selection is based on medical criteria like blood group, result of cross matching and body size. Social and financial status are never a criteria in selecting recipients.

How does brain death occur?

Brain death usually results from a severe brain injury or brain hemorrhage which causes all the brain activity to stop. This can happen after a major road accident or a bleeding in the brain due to stroke.

What is brain death?

For generations, the definition and diagnosis of death were straight forward; when the heart stopped beating and breathing ceased, person was declared dead. With advancement in medical technology many of them could be kept alive by artificially sustaining heart beats or maintaining breathing with respirator although brain is not passing the command to keep body alive. This resulted in a new universally accepted medico legal definition of "brain death" which is irreversible cessation of all the functions of the brain including capacity for consciousness and ability to breath. Such a brain dead person can donate his/her organs.



**“Don't take your organs to heaven
for god knows they are needed here”**

After you have departed from this world organ donation is the most wonderful legacy you can leave behind. The eyes continue to see the wonders of the world and the heart continues to sing a new song. After our death, we don't need any of our organs, so after all why burn or bury them when we can save so many lives, besides restoring the sight of two more people.

