

Assessment on loss of potential organ donor in brain-injured patient and identifying the strategies to reduce the losses

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Organ transplantation has become the best and the only lifesaving treatment for patients suffering from irreversible organ failure. Missed donation opportunities has contributed to inequities of access to transplantation. These losses were often overlooked yet still possess a significant concern thus it should be assessed to give an overview on the magnitude of the problem. **Objectives:** This study aims to evaluate the prevalence of loss of potential organ donors among brain-injured patients and identifying the strategies to reduce the losses. **Materials and Methods:** A retrospective observational study was done using the data collection of all patients who have died in Hospital Sultan Idris Shah (HSIS), Selangor, Malaysia with a cause of death consistent of any brain injuries from January 2021 until December 2023. The patients were then further classified if they were eligible for donation based on the presence of any medical contraindications to donation and status of mechanical ventilation. The eligible patients who were not being identified were consider potential organ donor loss. **Results:** Out of 223 patients, only 23 patients were detected by or referred to the in-house donor coordinator (DC) thus leaving another 200 patients left undetected. Among medically eligible and ventilated patients, about 61 patients (47.3%) was not detected by and not referred to the DC, thus resulted in loss of potential donors among brain-injured patients. 51 patients were treated conservatively without considering organ donation during the end-of-life care. **Conclusion:** Among the good strategies to reduce the number of potential organ donor loss are empowerment of the in-house donor coordinator, more lenient donor selection criteria, introducing the Spanish recommendation on intensive care to facilitate organ donation and implementing donation after circulatory death. More patients will have the opportunities to donate organs upon death and indirectly will increase the availability of organs for transplantation.