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KODAI

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Kauvery Organ Donation Awareness Initiative

THE GIFT OF LIFE

Why Support Organ Donation?

Chronic diseases such as heart failure, lung disease, liver failure, and kidney failure are increasingly prevalent around the world, including in India.

Patients with these conditions often experience a quality of life that is worse than that of cancer patients.

Their health progressively deteriorates, daily activities become more challenging, and the uncertainty around their lifespan grows and the financial burden of managing these diseases increases over time.

The Lifesaving Solution: Organ Transplantation

For most of these patients, organ transplantation represents the only potential cure. There are thousands of such patients waiting for organ transplantation

Despite the urgent need, a transplant remains just a dream for most, as the number of patients needing organs far exceeds available donors.

Family members often wish to help but might be ineligible to donate due to their own health issues. This scarcity has unfortunately fuelled illegal organ trading and trafficking.

Promoting Cadaveric Organ Transplantation

While living donors can provide organs such as kidney or a portion of their liver, we advocate for a future where everyone considers becoming a donor after death.

This approach can significantly alleviate the pressures on living donors and dramatically increase the availability of organs.



The Current Landscape in Tamil Nadu

A single donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation.

As of 2024, there are 6,332 people waitlisted for kidney transplants, 438 for liver, 76 for heart, 64 for lungs, 25 for heart and lungs, 27 for hands, two for small bowel, 40 for kidneys and liver, 42 for kidneys and pancreas, and one for pancreas/small bowel/stomach in Tamil Nadu.

However, in the year of 2023, the number of actual donors were only 178. Each year, thousands of lives could be saved if more people chose to donate.

But many families face a difficult decision when approached about organ donation, especially if they are unfamiliar with the process or the benefits. Often, misconceptions and lack of awareness lead to hesitancy to donate. Educating the public about the impact of donation can help overcome these barriers and increase the willingness to donate.



WHO CAN DONATE?

Understanding Brain Death

A person is considered to be brain dead when they have suffered an irreversible loss of consciousness, show no brain stem reflexes, and cannot breathe independently. This condition often results from severe brain injuries, strokes, or other catastrophic events affecting the brain. While brain function ceases, other organs can remain healthy and functional if the individual is supported by a ventilator.



Eligibility for Donation

Individuals diagnosed with brain death are unable to recover any brain activity and will ultimately experience a cessation of heart function. The organs from a brain-dead donor, which can still be functioning properly thanks to medical support, can be life-saving gifts to patients in need.

The Value of Life and Legacy

Life is precious, and organ donation allows us to extend the value of our lives even after death. If not donated, these viable organs would otherwise go to waste.

Consent Matters

Choosing to donate organs is a deeply personal decision and is always voluntary. Consent is obtained without any pressure, ensuring respect for the donor and their loved ones.

WHAT IS A DONOR PLEDGE?

Making a Commitment

Anyone can choose to pledge their organs for donation upon their death. When you make this pledge, you receive a donor card. This card symbolizes your intention to donate your organs and serves as a reminder to discuss your decision with your family and friends.

Understanding the Donor Card

It's important to know that a donor card is not a legal document—it simply indicates your wish to become an organ donor. While it holds no legal power, keeping this card with you and informing your family and friends about your decision is crucial.

Legal Considerations in India

In India, the final decision to donate your organs rests with your next of kin, even if you have pledged to donate. No organ donation can occur without their consent. Therefore, discussing your intentions with your family is essential, as this conversation can greatly facilitate the donation process in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Each year, August 3 is marked as National Organ Donation Day in India, celebrating the anniversary of the country's first successful deceased heart transplant on this day in 1994 and August 13 is recognized globally as World Organ Donation Day.

This year, Kauvery Hospitals is running an organ donation awareness campaign from August 3 to August 13, named **KODAI (Kauvery Organ Donation Awareness Initiative)**. KODAI means 'gift' or 'charity' in Tamil, reflecting the profound gift of life one can give through organ donation. Donor booths are set up across our hospitals in Trichy—Tennur, Cantonment, Heart City, and Maa Kauvery—to encourage and facilitate organ pledges.

Educate and Advocate: Inform your friends and relatives about the critical need and benefits of organ donation. Encourage everyone to pledge their organs. Advocate for organ donation, especially in situations involving potential donors who are brain dead.

Together, We Build Hope: Your advocacy can make a monumental difference. Let's work together to promote organ donation and create a legacy of hope.

Myths and Facts About Organ Donation

1: What if I recover from brain death?

Recovery from brain death is impossible. It is different from a coma which may involve some brain activity, but brain death means complete absence of brain functions. The person is legally and medically dead. Stringent tests, conducted twice with a six-hour interval, conclusively establish brain death.

2: If the family agrees to organ donation, doctors will not try hard to save the patient.

The medical team's priority is always to save the patient's life. Only after a patient is declared brain dead, and with family consent, organs are considered for donation. The Doctor's role is to provide care up to the point of brain death and is separate from the transplantation process.

3: The donor's family will have to pay more money to the hospital.

There are no costs to the donor's family for organ donation. After brain death is declared, the hospital covers all expenses related to maintaining the donor's organs for transplantation.

4: If I donate organs, I will be born without them in the next birth.

This concern reflects a misunderstanding of physical and spiritual existence. Upon death, organs are no longer viable, and all physical matter eventually ceases to exist, making the condition of the physical body irrelevant to spiritual beliefs about rebirth.

5: Religions forbid organ donation.

Organ donation is supported by all major religions as a humanitarian act. Leaders from Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Christian communities have endorsed organ donation, recognizing it as an act of charity and love towards others.

6: Organ donation mutilates the body.

Organs are removed with precision and care through a single incision from the top of the chest to the navel, which does not disfigure the body. Furthermore, any signs of the procedure are not visible once the donor is dressed for cremation or burial.

7: Age, illness, or physical defects can prevent me from being an organ donor.

Suitability for organ donation is determined based on medical evaluation at the time of death. The transplant team assesses each organ for viability. Many conditions previously thought to preclude donation, such as diabetes and hepatitis, may no longer be barriers.

8: Once I pledge to be an organ donor, I can never change my mind.

You can always change your decision about organ donation. If you wish to withdraw, you can cancel your registration, destroy your donor card, and importantly, inform your family of your decision. Ultimately, it is your next of kin who will make the final decision about organ donation.

BE A HERO – Pledge to Donate:

Consider pledging your organs at donor booths in Kauvery Hospital or easily online by scanning the QR code provided below.



No.1, K.C. Road, Tennur,
Trichy-17.

No.6, Royal Road,
Cantonment, Trichy-1.

Heartcity No.52, Alexandria
-Road, Cantonment,

No. 27, Alexandria Road,
Cantonment, Trichy-1.

Ph : 0431 - 4077 777