

FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
SUSPECTED BRAIN DEATH

1 What cases are considered as “suspected brain death”?

Any patient fulfilling criteria of (i) known documented brain insult or pathology; (ii) GCS of 3/15; (iii) apnoeic, (iv) intubated and ventilated; (v) both pupils fixed and dilated; (vi) no gag or cough reflex is considered as a “suspected brain death” case.

2 How do I know if a “suspected brain death” case is eligible for organ or tissue donation?

A “suspected brain death” is eligible for organ or tissue donation if there’s no evidence of (i) malignancy, (ii) overwhelming sepsis, (iii) has no risk factors or clinical history or evidence to suggest transmissible infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis. A person with Hepatitis B may still be considered for kidney donation.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MALAYSIA



National Transplant Resource Centre
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

This leaflet was designed to provide basic information for healthcare personnel on organ and tissue donation and other relevant issues. It is intended to improve awareness and increase the deceased organ and tissue donation rate in the country. It may not be comprehensive and therefore further reading, discussion and consultation is encouraged.

This information leaflet was developed by the Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia and the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur

For any feedback please email to transplantation_unit@moh.gov.my, or write and address to Transplantation Unit, Level 5, Block E1, Complex E, Federal Government Administrative Centre, 62590 Putrajaya Malaysia.

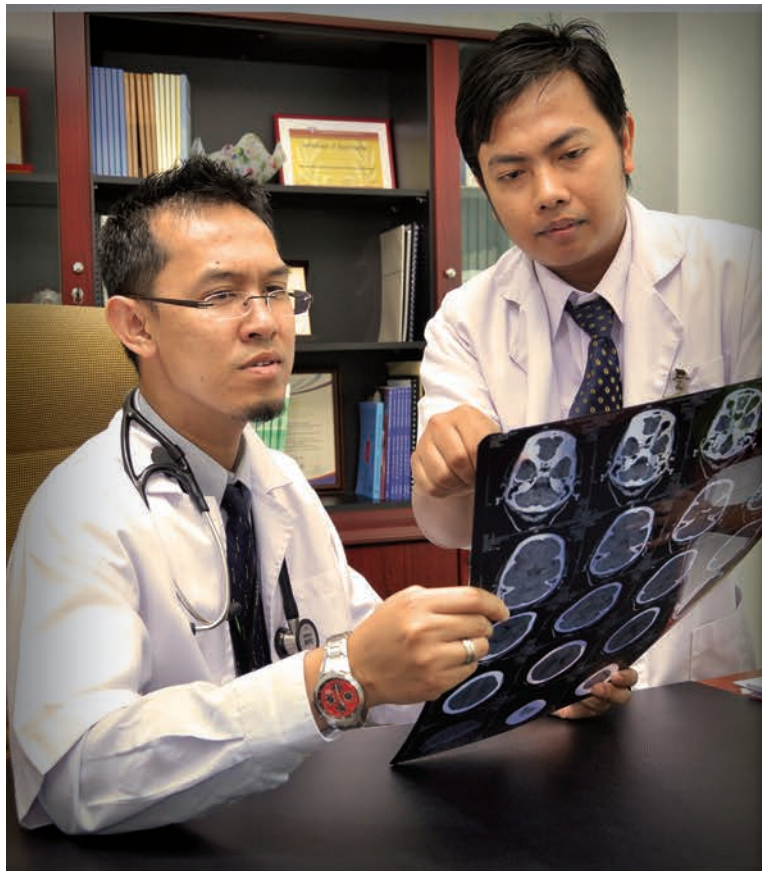
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Suspected Brain Death

Essential Information for Medical Practitioners





3 Why should I care about organ donation?

Organ donation is important. The number of patients with end stage organ failures keeps increasing. For example, in the year 2001, we had only 7,837 patients undergoing dialysis nationwide but the number has gone up to 22,932 in the year 2010¹. The increase is more than 3 times over the last 10 years. The number of patients in the waiting list for liver, heart and lungs transplants is relatively smaller because unlike patients with end stage kidney failure who has the advantage of dialysis, these patients have no alternative treatment and do not survive long. As a result of the long waiting list, many patients had to travel to other countries

for organ transplantation which has raised international concern including the World Health Organization about unethical practices of organ trafficking². A multi-organ donor may benefit up to 5 organ recipients (heart, lung, liver, a pair of kidneys). Not just that, a deceased person may also donate tissues like cornea, bones, heart valves and skin. In other words, you will benefit many patients and contribute to the well being of the society at large if you care about organ and tissue donation.

¹Malaysian Dialysis and Transplantation Registry 2010

²Please refer to "WHO Guiding Principles of Human Cell Tissue and Organ Transplantation, May 2010" and "Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism, May 2008"

4 What should I do if I'm suspecting my patient had died of brain death?

A consultant advice should be obtained to consider performing brain death test. It is also important to verify clinical suitability of a case for organ and tissue donation. You may alert your local Tissue and Organ Procurement Team (TOP Team) or contact the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur for further action and consultation (contact no. at the back of this leaflet).

5 When should I approach family members for organ donation?

It is important to note that family members of the deceased will be in deep grief. It is important to understand their sensitivity and therefore a consultant advice is needed before approaching family members. Family members can be approached after a positive first brain death test. Advice can be obtained from the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur on how to approach family members (contact no. at the back of this leaflet).

6 Where can I get further information?

You can get further information from your local Tissue and Organ Procurement Team (TOP Team) or Local Transplant Resource Centre (in selected hospitals). You may also contact the National Transplant Resource Centre, Hospital Kuala Lumpur:

Office (HKL) : (603) 26942704 or
(603) 26942705

Office (Wisma Sejarah) : (603) 26810681

On call : (6019) 3885654

Toll free : 1-800-88-9080

Fax : (603) 26156269

Email : ntrc@hkl.moh.gov.my

Website : www.agiftoflife.gov.my

Facebook : www.facebook.com/agiftoflife

For referral of cases or any clinical consultation, you may contact coordinator on call (no. as above).

