




Improving the Quantity and Quality of Donated Organs:

An Examination of the Point at Which it is Acceptable to Donate

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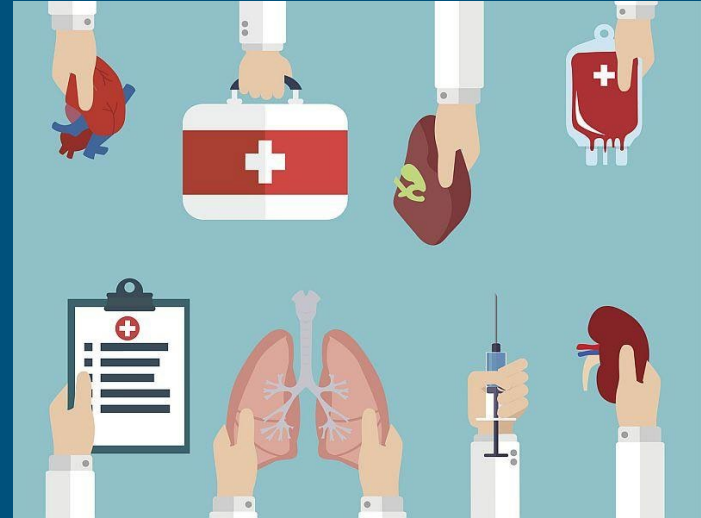
Background: The Problem

- There has been a shortage of organ donors
 - Many are unable to receive a transplant in a timely manner
- Organ viability begins decreasing as soon as a person dies
 - Occasionally the regulations surrounding declaration of death and organ donation causes loss of viable organs



Current Standard and Practices for Organ Donation

- The Dead Donor Rule
 - Both beneficial and controversial
- Policy for declaring cardiac death
 - Five-minute non-intervention period
- Policy for declaring brain death
 - Multiple physicians and tests
- Policies for consent to donation



<https://www.macaubusiness.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/organ-transplant-istock-stefanamer-20170103-696x522.jpg>

Varying Definitions of Death

- Cardiac death
 - Confusion about irreversibility
 - Controlled versus uncontrolled
- Brain death
 - Confusion about signs of “life”
- Social aspects of death
 - Perception of brain death versus cardiac death



https://post.healthline.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Hospital_Bed_1200x628-facebook.jpg

Ways to Improve the Supply of Viable Organs

- Removal from organs before “death*”
 - Presently illegal and taboo
 - Modification of laws/standards for declaring death and/or surrounding organ donation
- Promote options for clear consent
 - Advanced directives
 - Power of attorney for health care

