



## The causes of consent to and refusal of organ donation by relatives of brain dead patients in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, Iran; A letter to the editor

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### Letter to Editor

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### Editor in Chief

The need for organ donation has increased during the last two decades,<sup>1</sup> while the rate of consenting to organ donation has remained insufficient worldwide.<sup>2</sup> Research has indicated that the most important reason for restricted accomplishment in organ donation is lack of consent of the deceased's relatives.<sup>1,3</sup> In most countries, the process of organ donation depends on the decision of the deceased's relatives on organ donation and this decision is strongly influenced by numerous factors.<sup>4</sup> Some Iranian individuals do not have a positive attitude towards organ donation.

In the present study, the reasons for consent to and refusal of organ donation were examined in 102 family members of brain dead patients hospitalized in hospitals of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, Iran, from 2003 to 2013. About 37% of families had consented to organ donation. In the refusing group, failure of belief in brain death as actual death (72.9%), belief in the painful process of organ donation (60.4%),

and uncertainty about the physician's diagnosis (75%) were the most frequent reasons for refusing. In the consenting families, belief in beneficence and religious belief in oblation (100%), and certainty about the treatment team's efforts to save the patient (100%) and physician's diagnosis (100%) were the most frequent factors.

Siminoff et al., found that the majority of consenting individuals expressed altruism as the reason for their decision.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the patient's tendency towards organ donation was one of the important reasons for their consent. In the refusing families, the possible lack consent of the patient was one of the most important reasons for refusal of organ donation.<sup>5</sup> Ahmadian et al. also found religious beliefs and ideas on transplantation as predictors of decision on organ donation.<sup>6</sup> Ghorbani et al. also found failure to acknowledge brain death, cultural issues, unspecified organ receiver, and unawareness of the deceased individual's consent to or refusal of organ donation to be the most common causes of organ donation refusal.<sup>7</sup>

Moraes and Massarollo, in their qualitative study, concluded that brain death was considered as uncertain by family members, and its denial, conflicts among family members

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during the decision making process, and bereavement and grief caused by a beloved individual's death contributed to organ donation evasion.<sup>8</sup> Holman et al., in a study in Romania, found maintenance of body integrity after death to be the an effective factor on refusal of organ donation.<sup>9</sup>

Numerous factors are related to the consent to or refusal of organ donation by relatives of brain dead patients and special attention to these factors is necessary in order to increase the organ donation rate.

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### Conflict of Interests

Authors have no conflict of interests.

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