



## Organ donation in France: legislation, epidemiology and ethical comments

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| Résumé en anglais     | <p>The Bioethics Laws revised in 2004 have defined rules concerning organ donation and transplantation. They have also permitted the creation of the French Biomedicine Agency which guarantees the right of enforcement. In France there are three situations in which organs may be harvested: from cadaveric donors, from living donors and, since 2005, from non heart beating donors. Organ harvesting from cadaveric donors is permissible if the deceased did not make known his refusal during his lifetime (this may be recorded in the national registry set up for this purpose). The rule of presumed consent also applies in the case of organs taken after cardiac arrest. With regard to organ harvesting from living persons, a panel of experts is required to give approval. The recipient's spouse, brothers or sisters, sons or daughters, grandparents, uncles or aunts and first cousins may be authorised to donate organs, as well as the spouse of the recipient's father or mother. The donor may be any person who provides proof of having lived with the recipient for at least two years. Some ethical questions will need to be resolved; for example the relevance of maintaining the EEG for brain death diagnosis, enforcement of the law on presumed consent, the real nature of the will of living donors and the definition of death.</p> |
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