

## **Attitude of sicilian nurses toward organ and tissue donation**

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**Introduction:** Organ donation has improved worldwide in recent years. In 2019, Italy ranked third in the European ranking for organ donation. But apart from a few years when Italy reached its transplant peak, there remains an important and thought-provoking figure: resistance to organ donation.

**Objective:** To determine nurses' attitudes and preparedness for organ donation; to assess the importance of talking about donation; to assess the impact of nurses' education level and work experience on attitudes towards organ donation.

**Material and method:** Non-probability convenience sampling method was used. 150 questionnaires were evaluated.

**Results:** Participants responded positively to the questionnaire and thus supported organ donation (86%, n=129). Looking at the responses of the minority opposed to tissue and organ donation (14%, n=21), the common denominator is the lack of adequate training on the topic and thus lack of knowledge on the subject. The majority (91%) of nurses who responded positively to the questionnaire had a university degree. In contrast, those opposed to organ and tissue donation have less broad range of qualifications, with no university degree, but only a basic training (9%).

**Conclusions:** Further research is needed into the effectiveness of current organ donation education programmes. The introduction of "organ and tissue donation" as a new subject would probably increase awareness and improve knowledge among new health professionals.

**Keywords:** organ donation, brain death, Italian legislation, Sicilian nurses, nurses' attitude