

Recommendations on Anonymity in Living Kidney Donation: Abstract

Anonymity of donors or recipients in living donor transplantation is a complex issue and practice varies widely. There are compelling arguments for maintaining anonymity of both parties prior to unspecified donor transplantation, and specified indirect transplantation. After transplantation, there are still good reasons to avoid disclosure of identities. Although anonymity could be lifted if both parties explicitly request it, there are significant, potentially negative consequences of such an approach. Both donor and recipient should be counselled regarding these, and transplant teams should consider the considerable financial and psychosocial costs if problems are encountered as a result of contact. Given the recent rise in the number of unspecified living donor transplants and through paired exchange schemes, it is vital that data is collected regarding the effects of maintaining or revoking anonymity after transplantation.