

# Informed Consent in Organ Transplantation

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# OUTLINE

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- Overview of informed consent
- Important issues on informed consent in organ transplantation
- Challenges of informed consent in organ transplantation

# What is informed consent?

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- Informed consent is an ethical and legal requirement
- Informed consent provides all relevant information to a competent individual so they can make a voluntary decision
- It is the practical application of autonomy
- It shows that the individual is respected
- It is the legal document that shows the individual has participated in a decision

# What are the components of informed consent?

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- Informed consent has three components
  - Relevant information
  - Competence of the individual
  - Voluntariness

# A competent person

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- Is able to understand and retain the information pertinent to the decision about their care
- Is able to use this information to consider whether or not they should consent to the intervention offered
- Is able to communicate their wishes

# Elements of informed consent

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- Procedures which would take place
- Risks and benefits
- Voluntary participation
- Alternative treatments
- Privacy and breach of confidentiality if any

# Specified elements:

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- Procedures/duration
  - ❖ Recipient of organ is the patient with end stage organ failure
  - ❖ Organ transplant is the best treatment and sometimes the only available
  - ❖ Success rate of the procedure
  - ❖ Organ should be donated by matching donor
  - ❖ Source of donors
    - ❖ Living donors
    - ❖ Deceased donors

# Specified elements

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- Benefit

- ❖ The potential for the recipient to live a longer life and survival
- ❖ The potential for the recipient to achieve a greater quality of life than previously on dialysis (for those with end-stage kidney disease, for example).



# Specified elements

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- Potential risks to the recipient
  - Malignancy
  - Infection transmission
  - Unsatisfactory organ function
  - Host versus graft reaction
  - Burden of being on life long immunosuppressant

# Risks to the donor if live organ donation

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- Risks of anesthesia and surgical procedure during organ donation
- Risks of infection after surgical procedure
- Increased cost of care

# Other elements of informed consent

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- Voluntary participation, right to withdraw
- ❖ A statement that participation is voluntary (one does not have to donate)
- ❖ You can withdraw before you donate or receive the organ
- ❖ Refusal to treatment
  - ✓ You can opt not to be treated if you do not want

# Alternative options

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-Alternative treatment

❖ Alternative treatments are limited  
(remain on dialysis, for example or other types of procedures, medications)

-A statement describing the extent, if any, to which confidentiality of records identifying the patient can be violated

# Challenges of informed consent organ donation

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1. Diminished autonomy as result of chronic illness and poverty
2. Coercion or monetary inducement hence exploitation of the poor
3. Language difficulties
4. Cultural barriers
5. Costs of care

# Important issues to discuss with living organ donors

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- Reasons for donating their organs
- Possibility of exploitation of the poor
- Pressures to donate for loved one
- Post donation care
- Well being of donor

# Deceased donor

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- WHO guideline needs consent from relatives for the deceased donation
- Presence of advance directive on organ donation
- Specialized transplant individuals should talk to grieving family
- Potential donors need to be identified from ICU and EMD
- Identification is done by physician and the transplant individuals
- Death should not be certified by physician related to donor or recipient

# References

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- <http://www.who.int/transplantation/en/>



Questions?

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Thank You