

Overview of ethical issues of organs transplantation

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Introduction

- An **organ transplant** is a surgical operation where a failing or damaged organ in the human body is removed and replaced with a new one.
- The term “organ transplant” typically refers to transplants of the solid organs: heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and intestines.
- Animal and artificial organs may also serve as transplantable organs.

Introduction-History

- • 1954 living relating kidney transplant(Dr. Joseph Murray and Dr. David Hume Boston)
- • 1962 cadaveric kidney transplant by (Dr. Joseph Murray and Dr. David Hume Boston)
- • 1963 lung transplant (Dr. James Hardy Mississippi)
- • 1967 liver transplant(Dr. Thomas Starzl Colorado) and heart transplant(Dr. Christiaan Barnard South Africa)
- • 1981 heart/lung transplant(Dr. Norman Shumway California)

Introduction

- Although the idea of organ transplantation is an old one, successful transplantation did not occur until the Twentieth Century.
- Today the transplantation of many organs between well-matched human beings is quite successful, **with the majority of recipients living five or more years.**
- With current advances, even a human head transplant (perhaps better referred to as a body transplant) may be possible.

Introduction

- Since many people can benefit greatly from organ and tissue transplants, **the demand usually exceeds the supply.**
- The costs related to some organ transplants are very high as well.
- From the standpoint of deontological ethics, the debate over the definitions **of life, death, human, and body** is ongoing.

Introduction

- The use of cloning to produce organs with an identical genotype to the recipient has issues all its own. Cloning is still a controversial topic
- Therefore, **many questions are raised** today regarding **how best to procure more organs**, how to **fairly distribute limited resources**, and whether all transplants **should be covered by public funds**

Introduction

- The ethical and legal issues related to organ and tissue procurement and transplantation are often discussed in light of such principles as;
 - 1) Autonomy,
 - 2) Benevolence,
 - 3) Non-maleficence,
 - 4) Free and informed consent,
 - 5) Respecting the dignity, integrity and equality of human beings, fairness, and the common good.

Discussion points

Ethical Issues Regarding:

- 1) The Donor
- 2) The Recipient
- 3) Allocation of Limited Resources
- 4) Procurement of Organs and Tissues
- 5) Informed consent
- 6) Some Cases and Questions For Discussion

Ethical Issues Regarding the Donor

- 1) From the Deceased
- 2) From Living Persons (Adults, related, non-related, Mentally Disabled, Minors)
- 3) From Anencephalic Infants
- 4) From Human Fetuses

Ethical Issues Regarding the Recipient

Should individuals who have abused their bodies through smoking, drinking, or diet receive new organs, or should organs only be given to those whose organs were damaged by illness?

The recipients for the scarce organs are selected justly

Ethical Issues Regarding Allocation of Limited Resources

1) Criteria for Selection

Allocation rules, defined by appropriately constituted committees, should be equitable, externally justified, and transparent

2) Using Animals

3) Artificial Substitutes for Tissues and Organs

4) High Costs, Universality and Justice

5) Distributive justice – How to fairly divide resources –

6) Equal access –

7) Maximum benefit

Ethical Issues Regarding Procurement of Organs and Tissues

- 1) Buying and Selling Human Organs and The vicious cycle – Needs money , has organ. - Has money , needs organ Tissues;
- 2) Media Publicity
- 3) Types of Consent (Voluntary or Expressed, Family, Presumed, Required Request, Routine Inquiry)
- 4) Fears, Confusion and the Need for Education

Informed Consent

- The laws of different countries allow potential donors to permit or refuse donation, or give this choice to relatives
- Opt in (only those who have given explicit consent are donors)
- Opt out " (anyone who has not refused is a donor).
- consent required by law
- deceased person objected
- Minors and legally incompetent people

Some Questions For Discussion

- 1) Is the body a commodity? Can it be bought?
- 2) How should decisions be made on distributing scarce organs?
- 3) When several healthy organs are available, should they all go to one person or should several needy people each receive just one?
- 4) Should a person in whom a transplant has failed be given a second organ, or should a different person have a first chance?
- 5) Should individuals who have abused their bodies through smoking, drinking, or diet receive new organs, or should organs only be given to those whose organs were damaged by illness?

Some Questions For Discussion

- 6) Is it appropriate to spend money, time, and energy transplanting hands and other appendages that are not essential to life?
 - 7) Who can "donate" the organs of individuals who are unable to give consent?
 - 8) Is it possible to prevent coercion of donors?
 - 9) When should the courts get involved in organ donation decisions?
- The questions go on and on.

"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown again into flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner light." – Albert Schweitzer