

Transplantation in Asia I - Innovative Activities in Organ Transplantation in Asia

The first successful deceased organ transplantation in Bangladesh

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The interplay among faith, belief, religion, social norms and cultural attitude towards deceased organ donation and transplantation is complex.

Although overcoming the barriers to organ donation is challenging, initiation of transplantation from deceased donation is a necessity of modern time.

Progress of Organ Transplantation in Bangladesh

First successful live related kidney transplantation in Bangladesh was performed in October 1982, when a sister came forward and donated a kidney to save her brother's life. Forty years later, first ever deceased donor kidney transplantation has been successfully performed on 18th January, 2023.

The first deceased kidney donor, who also donated her corneas has brought new life to two kidney patients and two blind patients.

Donor was a 20-year-old girl suffering from Tuberous Sclerosis since childhood and died following a brain surgery. Her life might have been brief, but she will now be forever remembered for the impact her act had on others, and it paved a new path for organ transplantation in Bangladesh.

Issues and Challenges of organ transplantation in Bangladesh

Despite having performed the first deceased kidney transplantation, many challenges remain in the field of deceased solid organ and tissue transplantation.

Lack of awareness of concept of brain stem death, poor rate of brain stem death certification by hospitals and poor awareness and attitude towards organ donation are some of the major challenges. Lack of an organized system for organ procurement, carriage, banking and distribution from deceased donors, prevention and control of organ trading and high cost of treatment also contribute to the challenges. There is also lack of manpower and training in all sectors of transplantation.