

## **CAST-Vitalink Session - Structure and Function of Organ Procurement Organization in Asia**

### **Structure and function of OPO in Japan**

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History: In Japan, the Organ Transplant Law was enacted in 1997, allowing for the donation of organs from brain dead patients. In the same year, the Japan Organ Transplant Network (JOTNW) was established as Japan's only organization for organ procurement from deceased donors. Now, the head office is located in Tokyo, with branches in Hokkaido, Nagoya, Osaka, and Fukuoka. The JOTNW has approximately a total of 30 coordinators, and several coordinators are assigned to each branch. In addition, there are a total of 50 donor coordinators employed by each prefecture. They are responsible for parts of the mediation tasks in the donor hospitals in each prefecture.

Functions: The JOTNW manages the organ procurement (Heart, Lung, Liver, Kidney, Pancreas, and Intestine) by JOTNW coordinators in donor hospital, and provides donor family care after donation. Additionally, we have functions beyond those of a so-called OPO; management of waiting-list patients, recipient selection, and transplant laboratory testing. On the other hand, the functions that are not covered by JOTNW are the management of eye and tissue donation, which are handled by the eye banks in each prefecture and Japan Tissue Transplant Network, respectively. All living donor transplants are also managed by transplant-related academic societies.

As for the actual process, when an information about a donor candidate is received, several JOTNW coordinators visit the donor hospital to obtain consent for organ donation and legal determination of brain death, after which a brain death diagnosis is performed. The coordinators in Tokyo office then offer transplant institute to decide the recipient.

In this presentation, I will outline the structure and role of the JOTNW with the issues that need to be resolved for the future.