DONATE ORGANS SAVE LIVES!

- **What is organ donation?**
  Organ donation is a noble act which gives us an opportunity to save many lives after our death. The donated organs are transplanted into patients who are suffering from end stage organ failure. As many patients suffer from end stage diseases of various organs, organ donation is the only ray of the hope for them.

- **What is organ transplantation?**
  Human Organ transplantation is the achievement of modern medical science where through surgical procedure the healthy organ from a living or dead person is Implant in an individual suffering from end stage organ failure. This is an established surgical treatment available for the needy patients.

- **Which organs can be donated?**
  
  A) **In Brain Death**: The vital organ like heart, liver, two kidneys, pancreas, intestine, lungs etc. can be donated only if we die a brain death.
  
  B) **After Cardiac Death**: However cornea[eyes], skin and other tissues can be donated after cardiac death.
  
  C) **Live Donor**: A living person can donate limited organs like a single kidney [as we have two kidneys] or part of liver and only to his/her or close relative. The other vital organs can be retrieved only from a brain dead individual.

- **What is brain Death?**
  Any individual with an irreparably damaged brain stem, which is an important part of the central nervous system, is declared brain dead. Brain dead individuals cannot regain their consciousness and are not able to breathe on their own as brain stem has the centre for both. The heart can continue to function on a ventilator and other support for a max. of 36 to 72 hrs. As the blood supply to organs can be maintained for few hours, it is during this period, that the organs can be retrieved after obtaining consent from the close relatives. Brain Death can occur only in Intensive Care Unit. (ICU)

- **How is brain death declared?**
  Brain Death is declared by the Brain Death Committee which involves team of four doctors recognized by the Govt. and who are not involved in performing the transplant surgery. The team has to perform the brain stem death tests twice at the gap of min. 6 hrs. This death is declared in the hospitals recognized for transplantation or as organ retrieval center and is accepted worldwide. The brain death certificate is then issued to the relatives.

- **Is there any chance of survival of a brain dead individual?**
  No. A Brain dead individual is declared dead and cannot be revived. Life Can't be revived by any means after brain death. Brain death has nothing to do with mercy killing; the organs are taken only after the person is declared brain dead. There is a difference between comatose patients and brain dead individuals. The comatose patients are not dead where as brain death is the stage beyond coma and there is no chance of the individual regaining consciousness. A brain dead individual is declared dead. Organs are never taken at the cost of donor's life.
Does the donor have to die only in hospital?
Yes. As brain death can occur only in ICU, an organ donor necessarily dies in ICU of the hospital. No vital organs can be retrieved if the death occurs at home. However, eyes and skin can be retrieved up to 6 hrs. after the heart stops beating hence this can be done even if the individual dies at home.

Is it legal?
Yes. In India, The Human Organ Transplantation Act was passed in 1994 which mainly covers 3 areas.
- It recognizes brain stem death
- It regulates removal, storage and transplantation of organs for therapeutic purposes
- It prevents commercial dealings in human organs. No human organ can be bought or sold.

Is the donor’s body given back to the relatives?
Yes. The body is given back to the relatives to perform the last rites after the retrieval of organs. The organs are retrieved only for therapeutic purpose. This is different from body donation where the whole body is given to the anatomy dept. of the Medical College for academic purposes.

Are the organs given only to the rich?
No. As per the priority criteria like age, blood group, waiting period, clinical status of the recipients, the organs are given to the most needy and suitable patients. In Maharashtra the Govt. has given guidelines to give the priority score to all the waiting recipients to distribute the organs. Money, race, religion are not the criteria for distribution. ZTCC (Zonal Transplant Co-ordination Centre) is regulatory authority for organ distribution.

Will the donor family know to whom the organs are given?
No. The name and address of the recipients is not given to the donor family and vice versa.

Is there any disfigurement after organ donation?
No. The organs are removed carefully by taking the donor to the operation theatre and there is no disfigurement. There is a cut in the body which is sutured just like any other surgery performed on the living person.

Does our religion support organ donation?
Yes. All the religions in India consider it as a noble act.

Is any compensation or payments made to the donor family?
No. It is pure donation and hence it becomes a noble act. Moreover, the family is not charged for the investigation after the consent for organ donation is given after declaring brain death.

How can one become an organ donor?
Sign an organ donor card. Share your wish with your close relatives as their consent is required before retrieving the organs even if the donor has signed a donor card. The donor card has to be kept with the person who has signed it.

Donor cards are available at the following addresses

- Zonal Transplant Co-ordination Centre - Mumbai, L.T.M.G. Hospital (Sion Hospital) College Building, 2nd Floor, Near Medical Store, Sion (West), Mumbai - 400022  www.ztccmumbai.org  organtransplant@ztccmumbai.org  022-24028197, 9320063468, 9167663469
- Zonal Transplant Co-ordination Centre - Pune, C/o KEM Hospital, Rasta Peth, Pune 11  www.ztccpune.com  ztccpune@gmail.com  980210111
- Zonal Transplant Co-ordination Centre - Aurangabad, Department of Nephrology, MGM Medical College, N6 Cidco, Aurangabad - 431003  sudhirkul1979@gmail.com  0240-2333591/9422713691
- Zonal Transplant Co-ordination Centre - Nagpur, Govt. Medical College & Super Specialty Hospital, Manewada, Nagpur-44003  raviwankhede@gmail.com/ gmcssh@gmail.com  9423683350