



Submission No.: VL01-9338

Session : Vitallink Symposium 1

Date & Time, Place : November 16 (Thu), 08:30-10:00, Room 5F-2

Session Title : Organ Transplantation state in Southeast Asia

Situation of organ transplantation in Vietnam and developing an organ donation consultation network from brain-dead donors

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In Vietnam, the first organ transplantation case was performed more than 20 years ago, and since then the transplantation technique has been making considerable progress. In June 1992, the 103 Military Hospital surgeons successfully conducted the first kidney transplant operation. Later, different organs were also transplanted for patients successfully including the first liver (2004), heart transplant (2010), pancreas-kidney transplant (2014), and lung transplant (2017). The first organ transplant from a donor after brain death (DBD) was performed in May 2010. The most recent achievement was the organ transplant from a donor after circulatory death (DCD) performed in 2018. As of June 2023, the number of successful organ transplants that have been performed are 7,824. The majority of transplants have occurred in the last 10 years. In 2022 alone, 1,004 transplant cases have been reported. Up to now, the country has 25 medical centers performing organ transplants, but in reality, there are only 5 active transplant centers with over 50 organ transplants per year. The majority of organ transplants were from living donors (94.12%), while the number of organ transplants from deceased donors accounts for only 5.88%. From 2010 to December 2022, across the country, on average there were only 11 DBDs each year and this number has not increased for more than 10 years. The rate of DBD per million population was 0.1 which was very low compared to developed countries. Faced with this situation, we piloted the project "**Developing an organ donation consultation network from the brain dead donors**". The project began in November 2022 by opening a training program for 34 organ donation consultants and 40 doctors who participated in diagnosing and resuscitating brain-dead patients from 16 hospitals in the Northern region. The course for organ donation counselors was conducted over 4 days with contents including 1) knowledge about organ transplantation, organ tissue donation, and brain - death, 2) skills about a family approach to organ donation, 3) psychology, 4) The law and legal documents on brain death, organ and tissue donation. Participants in this course were doctors, nurses, and social workers. The course for doctors involved in diagnosing and resuscitating brain-dead patients was conducted in 1 day and was related to contents including knowledge and skills about 1) donation, 2) transplantation, 2) law associated with

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brain death, and death diagnosis, 3) brain death resuscitation, 4) organ retrieval, 5) organ procurement, 6) organ tissue coordination. Participants in this course were resuscitation doctors, neurologists, neurosurgeons, and diagnostic imaging doctors. After completing the training program, all trainees returned to their and joined the consulting and organ donation advocacy group at the respective hospital (Transplantation Procurement Management - TPM). The role of this group was to proactively discover potential donors, provide family counseling, assess organ function, support diagnosis and resuscitation of brain death, collect/procure organs, join organ coordination, etc. The organ donation consultant network at 16 hospitals has begun operating since December 2022. When there is a potential brain death donor, members of the consultant network will report it to the group. Vietnam National Coordination Center for Human Organ Transplantation will operate and support the network's operations. Every week, the donation consultant network will meet online to share experiences, discuss issues related to organ donation, and implement some training activities when necessary. **Results:** After 9 months of project implementation, the members of the network have successfully consulted 15 cases of DBDs. During that same period, there were only two DBDs recorded at the other 500 hospitals across the country that treated potential brain-dead patients. The success of the project has shown the importance of establishing professional organ donation consulting groups at hospitals and developing a network of consultants between donation hospitals to increase the number of organ donors after brain death. Up to now, thanks to the success of the organ donation consultant network project, we organized two more training programs for similar target groups and expanded the number of hospitals in the Northern region participating in this network to 33 hospitals. We also planned for the next two programs in 2023: a training program for 20 hospitals in the Southern region in October 2023 and a training program for 16 hospitals in the Central region in December 2023. In summary, establishing an organ donation consultant and advocacy group at a hospital, and developing a network of organ donation consultants between hospitals plays a key role in increasing the number of DBDs in Vietnam