

INDIAN TRANSPLANT

NEWSLETTER

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MULTI ORGAN HARVESTING AID NETWORK

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Editorial Desk**India Emerges as a Global Leader in Hand Transplantation**

In 2015, India launched its remarkable journey into the world of composite tissue transplantation, starting with hand transplant at the Amritha Institute of Medical Sciences in Kochi under the visionary leadership of Dr. S. Iyer. What began as a pioneering effort has now catapulted India to the forefront of this medical frontier, with six hospitals adopting these complex procedures. India proudly claims its position as the global leader in composite tissue allotransplantation (CTA), performing the highest number of such transplants worldwide.

Composite tissue allotransplantation involves transplanting a complex combination of tissues derived from both ectoderm and mesoderm, including skin, fat, muscle, nerve, and bone. Kleinert and Peacock coined the term CTA⁽¹⁾, which encompasses not only hands but also a diverse range of composite structures, extending from knees to abdominal walls, from nerves to faces and scalps, and from tracheas to uteruses⁽²⁾. The latter has been a recent addition to this expanding array of CTA.

Unlike life-saving organ transplants, CTA aspires to restore function and enhance the quality of life. The historical roots of CTA trace back to the 15th century, where the replacement of a leg from a deceased donor by Saints Cosmos and Damien marked the earliest recorded instance of such a procedure. Immunosuppression and surgical advancements have significantly elevated the success rates and functionality of hand transplants. Ongoing research promises to further hone these techniques and broaden their accessibility, as exemplified in the invited article from Dr. S. Iyer in this issue.

India, burdened with a high incidence of road traffic accidents and agricultural injuries, faces a growing population of amputees. While concrete statistics are lacking, estimates suggest over half a million hand amputees, with thousands more joining their ranks annually. This surge underscores the pressing need for hand transplants. Encouragingly, three of the six hand transplant units in India are government-funded, hinting at a future with even greater access to these transformative procedures.

Yet, numerous challenges persist on this path. These include:

- Consent - often complicated by the visibility of hands, poses a unique hurdle from the donor family's perspective.
- Matching prostheses can be challenging to obtain, hindering the transition from donated hand to prosthetics.
- Gender disparities between donors and recipients, as well as differences in muscularity and skin colour, add complexity to these transplants.

Addressing these challenges demands innovation, including developing cost-effective perfusion machines to sustain donated hands during transportation, a field ripe for research and investment within our programmes.

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- Tobin GR, Breidenbach WC 3rd, Pidwell DJ, Ildstad ST, Ravindra KV. Transplantation of the hand, face, and composite structures: evolution and current status. *Clin Plast Surg.* 2007 Apr;34(2):271-8, ix-x.

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Second-Ever Pig Heart Transplant Patient Recovers

In a second historic procedure, surgeons in the United States successfully transplanted a genetically engineered pig heart into a patient suffering from end-stage cardiovascular disease, ultimately saving his life. Both historic surgeries were performed by the faculty at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

The first historic pig heart transplant surgery was performed on David Bennett in January, 2022. Lawrence Faucette, the second patient, was dying from heart failure. Due to his pre-existing medical conditions and complications with internal bleeding, UMMC and several other leading transplant hospitals deemed him ineligible for a traditional human heart transplant.

According to doctors, this transplant was the only option available for Faucette who was facing near-certain death from heart failure. "My only real hope left is to go with the pig heart, the xenotransplant. The entire team at the UMMC has been incredible, but nobody knows from this point forward. At least now I have hope, and I have a chance," said Faucette during an interview from his hospital room, a few days before his surgery.

This second experimental procedure was performed in September 2023, and no signs of rejection were observed in the pig heart even after a month after transplant. According to doctors, Faucette is recovering, and his heart is functioning well without any assistance from supportive devices.

"We are once again offering a dying patient a shot at a longer life, and we are incredibly grateful to Faucette for his bravery and willingness to help advance our knowledge of this field," Bartley P. Griffith, MD, who performed the pig heart transplant on both the first and second recipient at UMMC, said in a statement.

Scientists Achieved Successful Transplant of Pig Kidneys into Deceased Human Recipients

Two separate research teams have achieved successful transplantation of genetically engineered pig kidneys into deceased human recipients. Attempts to achieve animal-to-human organ transplants, known as xenotransplants, have encountered continuous failures for decades due to the immediate rejection of foreign tissue by the human immune system. Scientists are revisiting this approach by utilizing genetically modified pigs aimed at producing organs that closely resemble human tissues.

At the Heersink School of Medicine, University of Alabama in Birmingham, a male in his 50s, who was pronounced brain dead, received a transplant of genetically modified pig kidneys. Within few seconds of being transplanted, the pig kidneys started producing urine. Furthermore, serum creatinine levels decreased to near normal range within two days following the transplant and remained within normal levels throughout the study duration. The details of this breakthrough advancement were outlined in a research article published in JAMA in August 2023.

A separate team at New York University Langone Health achieved a groundbreaking milestone by demonstrating normal functioning of a genetically modified pig kidney for an unprecedented duration of thirty-two days in a brain-dead individual. This experimental xenotransplant was performed on a 57-year-old brain-dead recipient, and the patient's native kidneys were removed to ensure that the pig kidney was the sole functioning organ.

These remarkable advancements in the realm of xenotransplantation signify a substantial stride towards resolving the ongoing issue of organ shortages. However, such studies raise a number of ethical considerations and rely on the incredible support of the deceased recipient's families.

First Petanque Transplant Asian Open Championship 2023 Held in Thailand

Team India bagged five medals in various categories at the first Petanque Transplant Asian Open Championship 2023 hosted by the Transplant Sport Association of Thailand from September 21 - 24, 2023 in Bangkok. A team of twelve Indian players representing a range of age groups and categories took part in the game and was led by Captain Mr. Harshvardhan Singh (Rajasthan). All these participants were recipients who had previously undergone various forms of organ transplant procedures. MFJCF (MOHAN Foundation - Jaipur Citizen Forum) provided unwavering support to the athletes from Rajasthan during their participation at the event.



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To cite : Shroff S. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p2-3.



SSKM Becomes First Hospital in Eastern India to Perform Hand Transplantation

Kolkata's IPGMER SSKM Hospital (Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research and Seth Sukhlal Karnani Memorial Hospital) became the first hospital in Eastern India to perform hand transplant surgery. Haripada Rana, 43, who suffered severe injuries in a road accident was declared brain dead at the SSKM trauma centre in July 2023. When informed, Haripada's family came forward to donate his organs including hands. This marked the tenth deceased organ donation of the year in West Bengal.

A 27-year-old youth who had lost both arms below the elbows due to an electrical burn received the bilateral hand transplant. He was one of the eight potential candidates listed by SSKM for transplant procedure. The hospital stated that the hand-transplant team at SSKM spent seven months looking for a suitable donor and a family willing for hand donation. A team of around twenty-five doctors, including orthopaedic and plastic surgeons, anaesthetists, were involved in the transplant procedure.

SSKM Hospital is the third public medical college and hospital in India to successfully perform a hand transplant procedure, following JIPMER in Puducherry and Stanley Medical College in Chennai. It was stated that the annual cost of immunosuppressive medications would be covered by the state government.

13th Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) observed by NOTTO

13th Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) was observed on August 3, 2023 by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The aims of this year's campaign "Angdaan Mahotsav" were:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles and wellness to reduce the need for organ transplantation
- Raising awareness on brain stem death, deceased organ donation
- Debunking myths and misconceptions related to organ donation and transplantation
- Encouraging hospitals to expand their deceased donation programme

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, expressed that there cannot be a greater service to humanity than giving life to another person. The event aimed at felicitating deceased donor families for their brave decision of donating organs of their loved ones, spreading awareness on deceased organ donation and recognizing the contribution of medical professionals working in the field of organ donation and transplantation by awarding them.

Multiple awards were given out during the occasion - Best SOTTO, Best ROTTO, State with highest deceased donors, Best Transplant Coordinator, Best NTO, Best NGO, Lifetime Achievement award to a transplant professional.

Tamil Nadu to Conduct Funeral of Organ Donors with State Honors

In September 2023, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin shared on social media that the state government would bestow honours during the last rites of those individuals who donated their organs to save the lives of many. Organ donations become possible only because of the altruistic sacrifice made by the families of brain-dead patients during their time of grief, he added. This significant initiative by the state government will create more public awareness regarding the importance of organ donation.

During the State Organ Donation Day observed by the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) in September 2023, Dr. N Gopalakrishnan, Member Secretary, discussed the recent initiative which encourages doctors and nurses to participate in an "honour walk" as a gesture of respect for deceased organ donors. "To augment the organ pool, all the government medical college hospitals across the state have been declared as non-transplant organ retrieval centers," announced Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian.

Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront of organ transplantation for many years. The state has been bestowed with the best State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) award during the commemoration of the 13th Organ Donation Day held on August 3, 2023.

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Sd/-
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Hand Transplant Programme in India - Progress and Future



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Hand transplant has been accepted as one of the best methods of rehabilitation for the persons who have lost their hands. The alternate to hand transplants is prosthetic rehabilitation. And this is associated with lot of drawbacks which include high cost and difficulty to maintain them, chances of periodic breakdown, lack of availability, lack of sensations and fine motor movements and inconvenience to use due to its weight. Hand transplants like any other solid organ transplant needs lifelong immunosuppression with its attendant risks. Risk benefit analysis so far has been favourable for hand transplants in those with loss of both hands. For persons who have lost single hands this may not be true. Hand transplants are indicated for traumatic losses and preferably not for congenital absence. The outcome is best in distal amputations, even though it has been done at proximal levels as well.

The first hand transplant was carried out successfully at the Amrita Hospitals, Kochi on 13th January 2015⁽¹⁾ on a 27-year-old man who lost both his hands in a train accident two years prior to it. The hands were donated by the family of 25-year-old painting artist, who was pronounced brain dead after a road traffic accident. This new chapter in the history of organ donation and transplant in the country, paved the way for similar procedures in the same centre as well as others in the country.

Since then, six more centres have taken up hand transplants. In total 50 hands in 29 patients have been transplanted so far in India. Among them 21 patients had bilateral and 8 underwent unilateral transplants either with loss of dominant hand or transplanting on the other side was not possible due to technical reasons. All over the world, so far 18 countries have carried out hand transplants. The number of individual centres across the world is difficult to be ascertained as some countries have multiple centres performing them. Since its inception in 1999, USA topped the list (32 patients, 46 hands) but India has overtaken it both in terms of number of recipients as well as number of hands transplanted. All over the world, 112 patients have undergone transplants with 170 hands donated, this being an approximate number, since not all the hand transplants are reported and the reported success rate is 78%.

The issues plaguing widespread use of hand transplants across the globe is mainly the technical complexity, need for dedicated centres, financial unviability of the health system as well as the listing of recipients, chronic rejection in spite of immunosuppression, morbidity due to immunosuppression and lack of donors. In India, the majority of the patients who lose their hands are those who are victims of road traffic accidents or electric burns.

The precise number of such patients remains unknown; however, anecdotal evidence from numerous centers suggests a significantly high incidence. Although prosthetics, particularly those with Indian-made bionic hands available at more affordable cost, may offer some benefit for individuals who have lost limbs at the wrist level, they are not a viable solution for everyone, owing to various economic and technical constraints. Prosthetics are known for mechanical failure, difficult to master by all, do not allow the recipients to engage in productive activities and are cumbersome to wear when the amputation is at higher level. Lack of availability of hand transplant centres in all parts of the country is still a problem. This makes it imperative for the patients and their immediate family to stay in a faraway place for an indeterminate time, since the availability of suitable hands is still sparse and not predictable. Recently, more centres are showing interest in setting up hand transplant units and guidelines are now available from National Organ Transplant and Tissue Organization (NOTTO).

The cost of procedure in private health set ups and the subsequent cost of immunosuppressive medications are the major barriers faced by the hand recipients. State funding aimed at transforming unproductive individuals to productive members of the society could represent a viable solution. Transport of organs to a distant location is still difficult, but the national policy on usage of commercial aircraft as well as subsidised Heli-transfer and proactive involvement from police for provision of unhindered green corridor is a welcome sign. There needs to be more social awareness and involvement of NGOs and transplant coordinators for improving the donation rate for hands from potential donors which in turn can help to reduce the indeterminate and long waiting time. There are many countries which are war torn and having hand amputees but with no facilities performing hand transplants. Rethinking of policies concerning the allocation of hands to foreign recipients seeking hand transplants on humanitarian grounds is crucial.

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(1) Iyer S, Sharma M, Kishore P, et al. First two bilateral hand transplantations in India (Part 1): From vision to reality. Indian J Plast Surg. 2017;50:148-152



India's first two bilateral hand transplant recipients

To cite : Iyer S. Hand Transplant Programme in India - Progress and Future. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p4.



Making the Tough Ask: Recalling the Counselling Experience for Hand Donation



Dr. Amit Joshi
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Approaching families for hand donation presented a unique challenge, especially in Indore where such requests had never been made before. Without previous experiences to guide me, I leaned on my background in organ donation discussions. The families' primary concern was about the potential disfigurement caused by donation. To address this, I sourced educational videos on hand donation and collaborated with the medical team to clarify the procedure, reassuring families that prosthetics used post-donation would allow for dignified last rites without visible alterations.

This endeavor, though daunting, was deeply fulfilling. It was a privilege to

witness the remarkable generosity of a family consenting to donate, transforming the most hardest situation into a gift of hope.

This act of kindness culminated in a life-altering transplant for a young woman in Mumbai, coincidentally on the eve of her 18th birthday. The timing was serendipitous, marking the beginning of a new chapter in her life - a gift beyond comparison.

To cite : Joshi A. Making the Tough Ask: Recalling the Counselling Experience for Hand Donation. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p5.

The First Hand Donation in Gujarat - A Touching Donor Family Request



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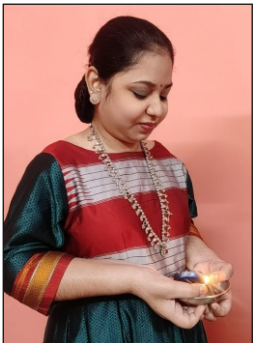
Gujarat witnessed its first hand donation, a milestone that had eluded us for years despite our dedicated efforts. I engaged in sensitive discussions with a family, urging them to consider donating their loved one's hands. Initially hesitant and deeply conflicted, the family sought time to deliberate and discuss this profound decision. After a period of reflection, they returned with their consent, along with a poignant request that deeply moved me.

The family's wish was for the hand recipient to partake in the "Kanyadaan" at the deceased's daughter's wedding. This gesture, they believed, would symbolically maintain the father's presence at the ceremony. While the fulfilment of this request was uncertain, we committed to doing our utmost. In a few months, during the wedding, this heartfelt wish was realized: the recipient performed the "Kanyadaan" symbolically passing on the father's role in a deeply meaningful act.

This extraordinary experience has not only been an inspiration to me but has also significantly aided in securing further consents for hand donations, underlining the profound impact of empathy and understanding in the realm of organ donation.

To cite : Kachhadiya N. The First Hand Donation in Gujarat - A Touching Donor Family Request. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p5.

A Story of Resilience and Hope - Bilateral Hand Transplant Recipient's Experience



Ms. Monika More, Mumbai
First Bilateral Hand Transplant
recipient of Western India

My experience with bilateral hand transplant stands as a testament to the resilience of human spirit, the significance of organ donation, and the transformative power of modern medical advancements.

Following an accident in a local train, I grappled with the limitations imposed by my condition, navigating a world seemingly designed without consideration for individuals like me. Simple tasks became formidable obstacles, and the emotional toll of the loss weighed heavily on my daily life. The prospect of bilateral hand transplantation not only promised the restoration of physical function but also offered hope for reclaiming a semblance of normalcy.

The day of the surgery marked a turning point in my life. Under the leadership of Dr. Nilesh Satbhai at Global Hospitals, Mumbai, a skilled surgical team worked meticulously and each step brought me closer to a future where my hands would once again be my own. Post-surgery, my rehabilitation journey unfolded as a challenging but essential phase in my quest for recovery. Daily physical therapy sessions became a routine, with each exercise representing a step towards regaining strength, flexibility, and control. The emotional impact of the transplant was profound. Overwhelming joy and gratitude accompanied the first moments of

realizing that I could feel warmth with my transplanted hands. The ability to grasp objects, feel textures, and engage in tactile experiences that had long been absent from my life became a source of immense joy and wonder.

My testimony serves as a poignant reminder of the multidimensional nature of bilateral hand transplantation. It is not merely a surgical procedure but a comprehensive journey involving organ donors and their families. I will forever be grateful to my donor and his family for their selfless gesture. May my story emphasize the importance of a supportive network including medical professionals, family and friends in navigating the complexities of post-transplant life.

The collaborative efforts of medical science have significantly enhanced the quality of life for individuals who have undergone transplantation. My journey reflects the triumph of the human spirit over adversity and underscores the remarkable possibilities that emerge when science and determination intersect.

To cite : More M. A Story of Resilience and Hope - Bilateral Hand Transplant Recipient's Experience. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p5.

First Ever Deceased Donation in the North East - Manipur



Ms. Pallavi Kumar
Executive Director (NCR)
MOHAN Foundation

On August 02, 2023, history was made when the brave mother and the wife of 42-year-old Sarungbam Kennedy Singh consented to donate his organs, making him the first deceased organ donor, not just in Manipur but in the entire seven North-East states of India.

This was a fruition of close to 5 years of work by the NGO MOHAN Foundation under the "Gift Hope, Gift Life" project supported by the SBI Foundation to initiate deceased organ donations and transplant in the state of Manipur. Organ donation is a crucial aspect of healthcare, and spreading awareness and facilitating procedures in relatively isolated regions can have a significant impact on saving lives.

The collaboration between JNIMS (Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences), a state government hospital in Imphal, Manipur and MOHAN Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) is indeed a perfect example of a Public-Private-NGO partnership. The partnership involved cooperation between government bodies, private sector entities, and non-profit organizations to address this important societal issue and achieve the common goal of starting transplants and donations. Here's why this collaboration can be seen as an exemplary model:

Comprehensive Approach: The partnership covered various aspects of organ donation, including awareness campaigns, training and capacity building, advocacy and most importantly initiating living renal transplants in JNIMS. This holistic approach ensured a well-rounded strategy to tackle the challenges associated with organ donation.

Starting renal transplants in collaboration with a government hospital was a major milestone, as it helps in addressing the growing need for organ transplants in the region, especially for the underprivileged.

Leveraging Resources: Public-Private-NGO partnerships allowed for the pooling of resources from different sectors. The government hospital provided medical infrastructure and expertise, MOHAN Foundation brought in specialized knowledge and community engagement capabilities, and the SBI Foundation contributed towards funding. This collaboration allowed each partner to leverage their strengths for a more effective and sustainable impact.



Paying homage to the departed soul

Community Involvement: The involvement of an NGO helped bring a community-centric approach to the partnership as NGOs are typically more adept at grassroots-level engagement and can bridge the gap between the government and the local population. This especially becomes crucial in initiatives like organ donation where community awareness and acceptance are pivotal.

The efforts put into creating awareness about organ donation finally lead to a positive change in the community's perception and understanding of the importance of this life-saving practice which finally led to this first landmark donation.

Capacity Building: The focus on training and capacity building in this initiative provided a long-term vision for sustainability for all stakeholders. By transferring skills and knowledge, the partnership aimed not only to address immediate needs like starting transplants but also helped empower healthcare professionals to continue and expand organ donation efforts in the future.

Advocacy and Policy Influence: NGOs can play a very powerful role in advocacy, influencing policies, and shaping public opinion. In this case, the partnership has contributed to the development and enhancement of policies related to organ donation, creating a more conducive environment for the initiative.

Scalability and Replicability: Successful partnerships like these can serve as a model for similar initiatives in other regions. Since the collaboration in Manipur proved successful, it could inspire similar partnerships in different parts of North-East and serve as a model for other regions in the country facing similar challenges in terms of organ donation awareness and infrastructure. MOHAN Foundation has conducted a Feasibility-cum-Assessment study of select hospitals in North-Eastern India for starting deceased organ donation & transplantation programme, which can serve a tool for future direction and focus going forward.

Overall, this collaboration exemplifies the potential impact that can be achieved when different sectors work together synergistically to address complex societal issues. It showcases the diverse strengths that each sector brings to the table, creating a more resilient and comprehensive approach to tackling challenges in healthcare and beyond.

It's a step towards building a more robust and inclusive healthcare system, and the ripple effects of such initiatives can be profound, potentially saving numerous lives in the long run.

To cite : Kumar P. First Ever Deceased Donation in the North East - Manipur. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p6.



Donor family is felicitated with a certificate of appreciation

A Story of Patience, Persistence and Hope

Ms. Samridhi Agarwal, Business Development Manager, SocialTAG, Hyderabad

A few years ago, my mother, Ms. Usha Agarwal, had been diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder known as Polycystic Kidney and Liver disease. This condition involves the formation of cysts in both her kidneys and liver, leading to bloating and a significant increase in liver size. The cysts began to develop around the time of my sister's birth, who is currently 19 years old and over the time, the situation worsened. Typically, a healthy liver weighs between 800gm to 1.5kg whereas in my mother's case, her liver weighed around 12 kg.

It all began when my mother started experiencing acute stomach pain. Doctors suspected an enlarged liver just by appearance. With time, her health deteriorated and doctors suggested that she might soon require a liver transplant.

In 2021, she developed an umbilical hernia due to the immense pressure from the liver cysts, which had taken up much of her abdominal space. Her physical condition worsened, confining her to bed for several months. Walking became impossible, and the hernia began to worsen. The medical advice strongly leaned towards a transplant, with the added complication of Polycystic kidneys, necessitating a dual transplant. The major challenge was finding a suitable donor for this dual transplant, a task complicated by the minimal likelihood of such donors.

With our backs to the wall, and having no other option whatsoever apart from helplessly standing by and watching her health deteriorate, we registered her with the "Jeevandan" for a combined liver and kidney transplant. We had tried out all options including registering her for a transplant in many places such as Bengaluru and Chennai. We even tried to explore possible avenues in other countries like Singapore.

We reached out to our close relatives and friends who could be potential donors. My aunt's son agreed to be a donor, and we completed the required documentation. The cumbersome process took about a month and we were filled with hope that she would receive her transplant soon. At the eleventh hour, he opted out and decided against donation - perhaps fearful of the surgery. In addition to her declining physical health, my mother experienced extreme emotional fragility, pushing us to the brink of an emotional breaking point. In 2022, we decided to move her to KIMS Hyderabad under the guidance of Dr. Ravichand Siddachari, Consultant and Chief of Liver Transplant and HPB Surgery.

The most emotionally draining part of the whole experience was waiting anxiously for updates from the hospital regarding the availability of a compatible donor. Every dawn brought hope for news we eagerly awaited. Each day's end, without the expected call from the hospital, we remained patient, offering prayers and maintaining optimism. During this time, we received donor calls from both Telangana and Tamil Nadu. However, due to various reasons, the transplants couldn't be carried out.

The wait was unbearable as my mother's condition deteriorated steadily. Just as we felt we were reaching our breaking point, in November 2022, a miraculous event unfolded. A donor call, presenting a suitable match emerged, and we held onto hope once again, wishing fervently for a successful transplant.

The surgery was performed in the first week of November, 2022 and this was the first time in India that transplant was offered to patient whose liver weighed 12 kg. The marathon operation, lasting 14 hours, was successfully done by liver transplant surgeons Dr. Ravichand Siddachari, Consultant and Chief of Liver Transplant and HPB Surgery, Dr. Sachin Daga, Senior Consultant HPB & Liver Transplant, Dr. K.N. Paramesha, Consultant HPB & Liver Transplant, and Dr. Uma Maheshwara Rao, Consultant Urologist and Renal Transplant Surgeon. Postoperatively, my mother was in the hands of Hepatologist Dr. Sharat Putta, and Nephrologist Dr. V. S. Reddy. This was one of the most difficult surgeries for the surgeons as the liver had completely occupied the entire abdominal cavity.

The day after the transplant, tears of joy flowed as we envisioned the prospect of freedom from the persistent pain my mother had endured. The happiness both she and our family experienced wouldn't have been possible without the profound act of selflessness exhibited by the donor's family.

My mother's journey stands as a testament to perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges, showcasing the remarkable outcomes born from the fusion of medical expertise and human compassion.



Ms. Usha Agarwal (liver and kidney transplant recipient) with her daughter Ms. Samridhi Agarwal before and after transplant

To cite : Agarwal S. A Story of Patience, Persistence and Hope. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p7.

Organ Donor Fashion Show: A Fusion of Style and Saving Lives



Ramp walk by donor families, recipients and models

The Madhyavarti of Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, witnessed a captivating fashion show on August 17, 2023, as part of the campaign "Celebration of Life". The event was jointly organized by MOHAN Foundation Jaipur Citizen Forum (MFJCF) and Community of Dreamers. The campaign culminated in a poignant fashion walk, where donors and recipients graced the runway, signifying the profound bond of life-giving generosity. This evening not only commemorated MFJCF's decade of service but also rekindled a deepened commitment for the years ahead.

The unique event brought together organ recipients, donor families, volunteers, and acclaimed fashion designers with the aim of promoting awareness about organ donation and celebrating the



Additional Chief Secretary Smt. Shubhra Singh (middle) honouring donor families

life after transplant. Every model, whether hailing from a donor family or a recipient or a passionate volunteer, embodied a distinct journey of resilience, gratitude, and the incredible influence of human compassion.

The chief guest for the event was Mrs. Shubhra Singh, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rajasthan whose guidance led the state to achieve a remarkable milestone of securing 14.3 million organ donation pledges on Organ Donation Day commemorated in August 2023.

To cite : Jagwani B, Shroff S. Organ Donor Fashion Show: A Fusion of Style and Saving Lives. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p8.

Anupam Kher Supports Times Organ Donation Drive

Deep emotions were stirred during an event hosted by Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital (KDAH) in Mumbai on August 22, 2023, where families of organ donors and recipients were honoured. The evening also marked another significant year for the Times Organ Donation Drive, a decade-long collaboration between The Times of India and Kokilaben Hospital, aimed at raising awareness about organ donation. NGOs like the MOHAN Foundation and Organ India collaborated in the campaign to amplify their message.

The chief guest, renowned actor Anupam Kher, was visibly moved by the inspiring stories of families who chose to donate organs despite the profound grief of losing a loved one. He articulated, "The parents of a three-year-old donor, a selfless teenager who donated his father's organs, and a 32-year-old wife who made the decision to save the lives of strangers are the true champions of our society. They deserve noteworthy recognition." Kher even expressed his willingness to become the ambassador for organ donation and support the noble cause.

Tina Ambani, the hospital's chairperson, referred the donors and recipients as the 'true heroes'. She stated, "The donors, who have given another individual with a new lease of life, and the recipients, who have embraced this opportunity to lead fulfilling lives, are the heroes." She also extended her admiration to the dedicated doctors and medical teams who make these life-changing miracles possible.



To cite : Jairam J. Anupam Kher Supports Times Organ Donation Drive. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p8.

First Ever Golf Event to Promote Organ Donation in India

On 9th September 2023, a group of passionate golfers gathered at the Madras Gymkhana Club's Golf Annexe in Guindy for promoting the noble cause of organ donation. The theme of the tournament was 'Drive to Save Lives'. Despite forecasts of heavy rain, the day unfolded under clear skies as 72 golfers from Chennai took to the greens.

Prominent personalities like Mr. R. Mani Rathnam (film director) and Mr. Murali Vijay (cricketer) joined the campaign and expressed their support for the cause of organ donation. The MOHAN Foundation further underscored the event's significance by inviting organ recipients, whose presence served as a powerful testament to the transformative impact of organ transplant.

The day unfolded with palpable intensity as the teams competed on the greens. Team D Vasu, paired with Murali Vijay, clinched the top spot, highlighting their prowess and synergy. Amit Prasad and Karhun Nanda, organ recipients, showcased commendable skill and determination, securing the first runner-up title.

The event concluded with the prize distribution evening. Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation welcomed the attendees and emphasized the event's profound importance. Ms. Jaya Jairam, Project Director, MOHAN Foundation, spoke about the Foundation's ceaseless mission to amplify the essence of organ donation and to help the under-privileged to get an organ transplant through crowd funding efforts.

The event was a message about the transformative power of organ donation, proving to all in attendance that a transplant doesn't hinder, but can indeed enhance, one's zest for life. As showcased by the golfers, it's more than a sport; it's a swing towards saving lives.



Pre-event campaign through various online and social media platforms



Film Director Mr. R. Mani Rathnam supporting organ donation



Golfers taking donor pledge at the event

To cite : Kanvinde H, Shroff S. First Ever Golf Event to Promote Organ Donation in India. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p9.



Golfers on the green



L-R - Anil Srivatsa (kidney donor), Karun Nanda (heart recipient), Amit Prasad (liver recipient) and Dr Swaminathan (liver transplant surgeon)



The winning team D Vasu and Murali Vijay receiving their trophy



Premalatha R (R) receiving her prize for demonstrating precision by landing closest to the pin



'Shared Care and Shared Decision Making' - ESOT Congress at Athens

European Society of Organ Transplant (ESOT) biennial Congress was held on September 17 - 20, 2023 at Athens, Greece which is regarded as the birthplace of modern European civilisation and holds a unique place in cultural, philosophical and political heritage. ESOT is the largest gathering of transplant community in Europe, bringing together clinicians, surgeons, physicians, nurses, scientists, researchers and patients to review latest developments in transplantation. Improving the lives of patients is central to the mission and education has been the core of ESOT for many years. Shared care and shared decision making were the emphasis of this year's Congress and was attended by 2800 delegates from over 80 countries.

ESOT meetings feature a comprehensive scientific programme that includes keynote lectures, symposia, and workshops covering a wide range of topics related to organ transplantation. These sessions provided attendees with the latest research findings, clinical insights, and innovative techniques in the field.

Dr. Gabriel Oniscu, the President of ESOT said, "Under the overarching theme of 'Disruptive Innovation, Trusted Care', we truly immersed ourselves into the new opportunities and challenges in our field, as we now shift to a technologically driven world. We have

examined how the digital revolution opens the door to new diagnostics, lab science and greater precision transplantation than ever before. We have delved into how we can address the organ shortage, optimise donated organs through perfusion technology and implement cell therapy advancements, as well as catching a glimpse of where xenotransplantation could take us."

One of the highlights of the Congress was the joint session with Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) which was attended by around 100 delegates from across the world.



To cite : Shroff S. 'Shared Care and Shared Decision Making' - ESOT Congress at Athens. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p10.

Augmenting Organ Donations through Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres - A National Conclave at IIM Bangalore



Dignitaries felicitated during the inaugural ceremony



Panel discussion on 'Facilitating deceased organ donation within the hospital - Challenges encountered'

A two-day national conclave to augment organ donation through Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centers (NTORC) was conducted at the IIM, Bangalore on September 2 - 3, 2023. The guests at the inauguration were Dr. Rishiksha Krishnan (Director, IIMB), Dr. Sudarshan Ballal (Chairman, Manipal Hospital), Dr. Rajani M (Member Secretary, SOTTO Karnataka), Dr. Pratima Murthy (Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences), Dr. Chakko Jacob (Nephrologist, Bangalore Baptist Hospital), Dr. Sunil Shroff (Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation)

The conclave deliberated on the following:-

- NTORC and its legal structure
- NOTP's provisions for NTORCs
- Ingredients of a successful deceased donation programme
- Counselling the grieving families and making the tough ask
- NTORC's perspectives on
 - Licensing and documentation
 - Maintaining brain dead donor & family counselling
 - Challenges in facilitating deceased donations

The focal point of the conference was "Empowering NTORCs to enable donations: Setting Processes and Systems", featuring group discussions on the following:-

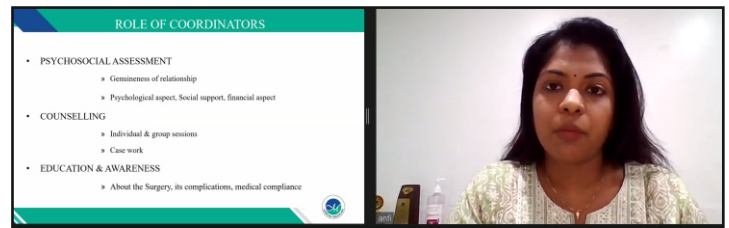
- SOP on Brainstem death - Identification & certification
- Requirements for setting up an NTORC
- License for NTORC - Emergency / Ad hoc / Routine
- SOP - Deceased donation in medico-legal cases & unclaimed bodies
- Cost sharing & reimbursement to NTORCs
- Identifying training needs

In concluding remarks, Dr. Shroff mentioned that a recommendation document would be prepared and submitted to the health ministry on empowering NTORCs to increase both their numbers and donations.

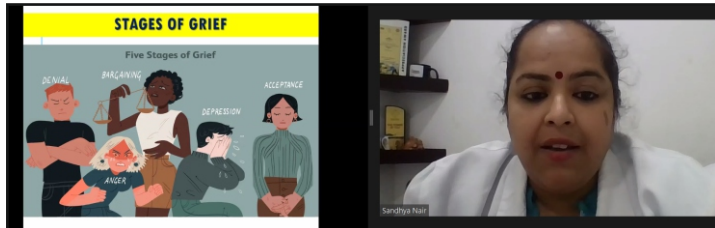
To cite : Raghuram L. Augmenting Organ Donations through Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centre - A National Conclave at IIM Bangalore. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p10.

Online Course on Transplant Coordination Professional Certificate

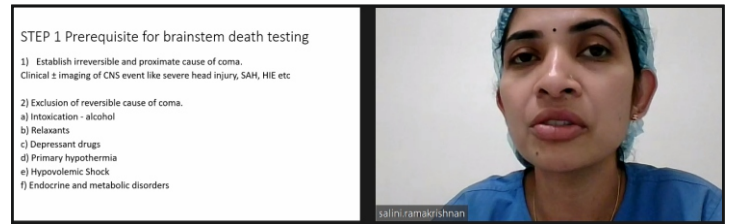
MOHAN Foundation conducted 'Transplant Coordination Professional Certificate' short-term online course. Two cohorts underwent training between July 2023 and September 2023. The course structure included online modules and interactive webinars, aiming to foster an engaging and informative learning atmosphere for the participants. The course successfully saw the completion of 105 candidates hailing from India, Ghana, and Nigeria, all of whom received their course completion certificates.



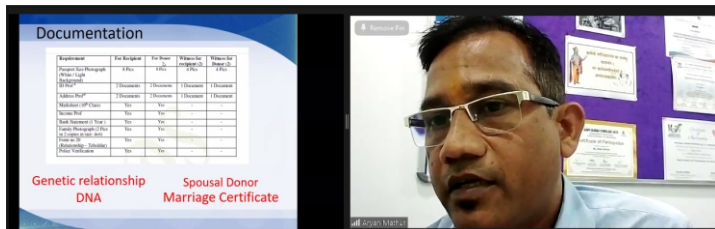
Ms. Anfi Mijo, Transplant Manager, Aster MIMS Hospital, Kozhikode - July 2023



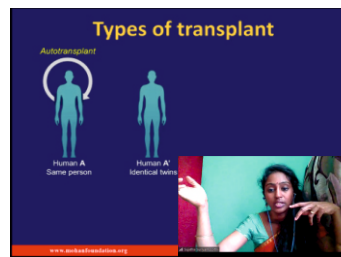
Lt. Col. Sandhya V Nair, Nursing Superintendent cum Transplant Coordinator, Medanta, Gurugram - July 2023



Dr. Salini Ramakrishnan, Sr. Consultant & Lead in Transplant Anaesthesiology, Rajagiri Hospital, Kochi - August 2023



Dr. Aryan Mathur, Manager Organ Transplantation & Procurement, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur - August 2023



Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi, Associate Director - Courses, MOHAN Foundation - September 2023

To cite : Suriyamoorthi S. Online Course on Transplant Coordination Professional Certificate. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p11.

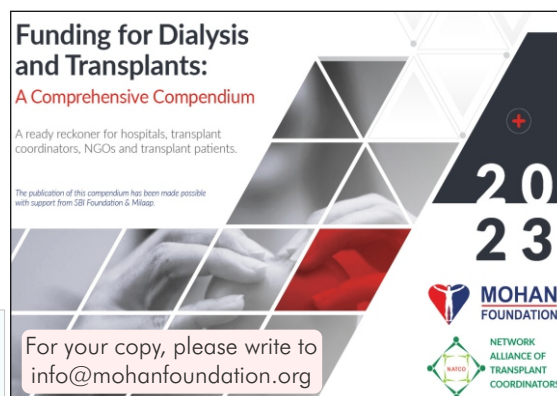
Funding for Dialysis and Transplants – A Compendium

MOHAN Foundation, a leading NGO in organ donation has compiled the "Funding for Dialysis and Transplants: A Comprehensive Compendium". This resource offers comprehensive information on financial assistance available for organ transplants in India. The compendium has received research support from NATCO (Network and Alliance of Transplant Coordinators) and financial backing from Milaap and the SBI Foundation.

Organ transplant costs are exorbitant, and a huge number of organ failure patients are not benefiting from this life-saving procedure as they are ill-equipped to bear the financial burden of the transplant and subsequent follow-ups. Having said that, the Indian government, at both the central and state levels, has recognized the importance of providing financial assistance and support for poor individuals in need of organ transplants. In addition, there are many NGOs and crowdfunding platforms supporting transplants for poor patients.

The compendium is an attempt to consolidate all information relevant to these schemes and other forms of financial support so that it can be used as a reference tool. This is the first ready record in India where economically disadvantaged patients can receive information about various means of funding for transplants.

To cite : Kumar P. Funding for Dialysis and Transplants - A Compendium. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p11.



Best NGO Award



MOHAN Foundation received the 'Best NGO award' from the Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India, Dr Mansukh L. Mandaviya at the 13th Indian Organ Donation Day organised by NOTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization) on August 03, 2023, at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.





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Project

GIFT HOPE, GIFT LIFE

MOHAN Foundation's Organ Donation Helpline serves as a crucial informational resource, managing approximately 12,000 calls each year. This vital service offers comprehensive information on diverse facets of organ donation and transplantation. Accessible in eight languages, it strives to ensure widespread awareness amongst the public and provide support to organ failure patients and their caregivers.

What initially commenced as an information tool has transformed into a helpline that actively coordinates and facilitates organ and tissue donations. Over the past 7 years, the helpline has played a pivotal role in facilitating 38 organs, 284 tissues (cornea, skin, bone) and 36 whole body donations (for medical research and education). This remarkable achievement has been possible thanks to the benevolence of the families who generously volunteer to donate their loved one's organs and tissues, seeking guidance through MOHAN Foundation's Organ Donation Helpline.

Since 2017

38 Organs

284 Tissues

36 Body donations

SBIF - MOHAN Foundation Organ Donation Toll Free Helpline



1800-103-7100

English | Hindi | Telugu | Tamil | Kannada | Malayalam | Marathi | Oriya

A Helpline That Saves Lives



Stories of Souls that Light Up this World and Our Lives

Ms. Tapati Mitra
(Corneal Donor, August 2023)

Ms. Tapati Mitra, born in Kanpur, had dreamt of becoming a doctor, but circumstances were otherwise. Moving to Delhi in 1971 with her husband and two children, she became a pillar of compassion in her family and community, extending her generosity to those in need, especially underprivileged children.

In the twilight of her life, health challenges arose, leading to Ms. Tapati's passing on August 24, 2023. Upholding her mother's legacy, Dr. Ruby dialed MOHAN Foundation's Organ donation helpline to fulfill Ms. Tapati's wish for eye and organ donation. Swift coordination between MOHAN Foundation's dedicated counsellors, Ganesh and Simran, and AIIMS Eye Bank resulted in the successful retrieval of corneas. Despite the family's intention to donate skin and bones, lack of functional tissue banks in Delhi prevented it. MOHAN Foundation acknowledges the eye bank's prompt response, and expresses its profound gratitude to Dr. Ruby and her family, whose poignant act of generosity paints a picture of compassion that echoes in the restored vision of another - a testament to a legacy shaped by love and altruism.

To cite : Project Gift Hope, Gift Life. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Jul-Sep; 22(2):p12.