

The Transplant Equation

Why Donor Families Matter

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Outline

- Donor Demographics
- Role of HOPE
- Family Support
- Registration
- Process of donation
- Why is donation important



The Reality of Deceased Organ Donation

- Someone has to die for this to occur
- The death must occur in a way that you are sustained on life support up until the organ recovery occurs
- The majority die suddenly and unexpectedly
- 2-3% of deaths are neurological in nature
- The legal next of kin **MUST** consent.
- The time from death to organ recovery varies between 24-48 hours



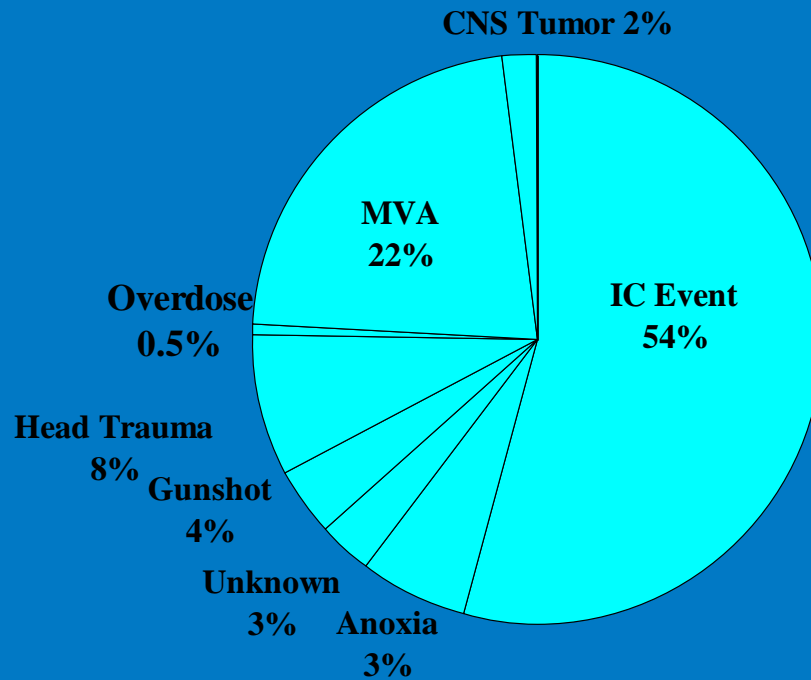
What is the leading cause of death for organ donors?



- A. Overdose
- B. Intracranial Hemorrhage
- C. Gunshot Wound to Head
- D. Sepsis



Answer is B: Intracranial Hemorrhage



Setting the stage....



Who can become a donor?

- The only absolute deferrals for **organ** donation include metastatic cancer and HIV infection.
- **Tissue** donation is more stringent. Absolute deferrals include HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and current sepsis. Cancer is not an automatic deferral.
- There is no age limit for organ donation, for tissue it is age 80.
- Oldest organ donor in our program was 89



Donation in Edmonton

- Facilitated by Transplant Services AHS
- Located at the University of Alberta Hospital
- Several teams of professionals work together to achieve positive donation outcomes.
- The HOPE Program facilitates and coordinates donation in Edmonton and Northern Alberta
- Donation occurs at UAH, RAH, GNH
- All other potential donors are transferred to the UAH



Where HOPE Comes in

- 7 Coordinators on call 24/7 (All RN's)
- Specially trained to talk about organ and tissue donation with families when:
 - Dealing with sudden loss and grief
 - Navigating through family dynamics in the picture of loss and grief
 - Ensuring knowledge is obtained through the grief
 - Sleuthing out who the legal next of kin is
 - Smoothing the waters when this creates tension



First Things First

- We consider their physical needs:
 - Fed?
 - Watered?
 - Rested?



The discussion

- We are open and honest and answer all questions to the best of our ability.
- We talk timelines (This process adds 24-48hr on top of the time they have already been in hospital).
- Do they really understand their loved ones condition?
- We talk logistics
 - Physical transfer of body – CTC, MEO
 - Funeral options – Open Casket
 - OR times and exportation of organs.



Donation wishes



Universal Donor Card

In the hope that I may help others, I hereby make this anatomical gift, if medically acceptable, to take effect upon my death.

A. Any needed organs and tissues for transplantation

B. Only the following organs and tissues for transplantation

Please specify organs and/or tissues:

Signature: _____ Witness (preferably family member): _____

PLEASE DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR FAMILY OR NEXT-OF-KIN.

Transmissible organs: heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, small bowel
 Transplantable tissues: eyes, skin, bone, heart for valves, veins

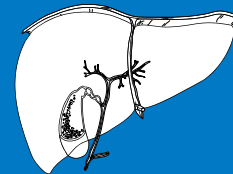
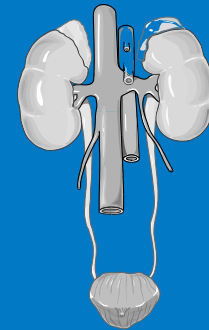
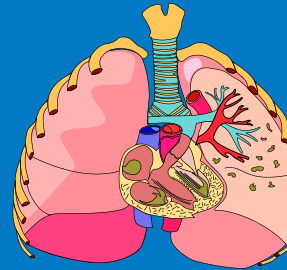


- Alberta Health Care Card
- Any other donor card
- License
- Living wills
- Personal directives
- Donor registry – MyHealth.alberta.ca



Transplantable Organs

- Heart
- Lungs
 - Single or double
- Liver
 - Whole ,cut down or split
- Kidneys
 - 2 recipients
- Pancreas
 - Whole, islets or multiviseral
- Small Bowel



Transplantable Tissues

- Heart valves
 - Pulmonic, aortic
- Eyes
 - 2 cornea, 4 sclera
- Skin
- Bone
 - More than 40
- Tendons
 - Up to 8



What this discussion is NOT about

- Convincing them this is the RIGHT thing to do
- Selling organ donation



What this discussion IS about:

- Providing enough information that families are equipped to make an informed enduring decision regarding organ and tissue donation that is RIGHT for them and their loved one



Common Questions

- Can I stay with my loved one until they go to the OR?
- Can I meet my loved ones recipients?
- Do I have to agree to everything?
- What do I do if I know my loved one would want to donate something that I'm not comfortable with?



Contact with Families

- We maintain contact throughout the donation process.
- We call once the OR is done and let them know how it went – What was recovered etc.
- We follow up and provide support regularly for 12 months after donation.
- Everything we provide is optional
- It is a buffet! Pick and chose what works with you



Why are we asking this of you?

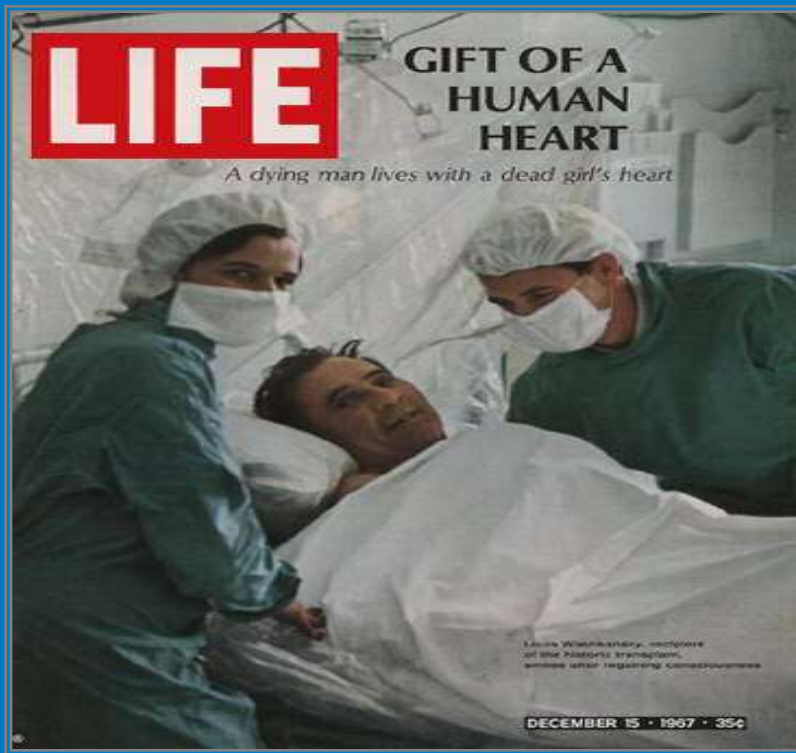


Waiting Lists (2015)

- Over **4500** Canadians were waiting for a transplant
- Approximately **469** people were waiting in Alberta.
- An average of 1 person every week dies while waiting for an **organ** transplant on the AHS Edmonton waitlist.
- **642 Canadians DIED or withdrew from the list in 2015**



Transplantation - History

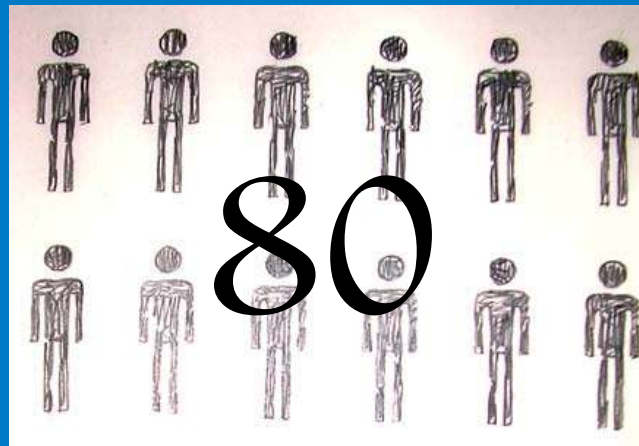


- 1954 – Kidney
- 1963 – Lungs
- 1966 – Whole pancreas
- 1967 – Liver and heart
- 1968 – 1st ODO
- 1981 – Heart/Lung
- 1983 – Single Lung
- 1988 – Small bowel
- 1993 – Islet cell



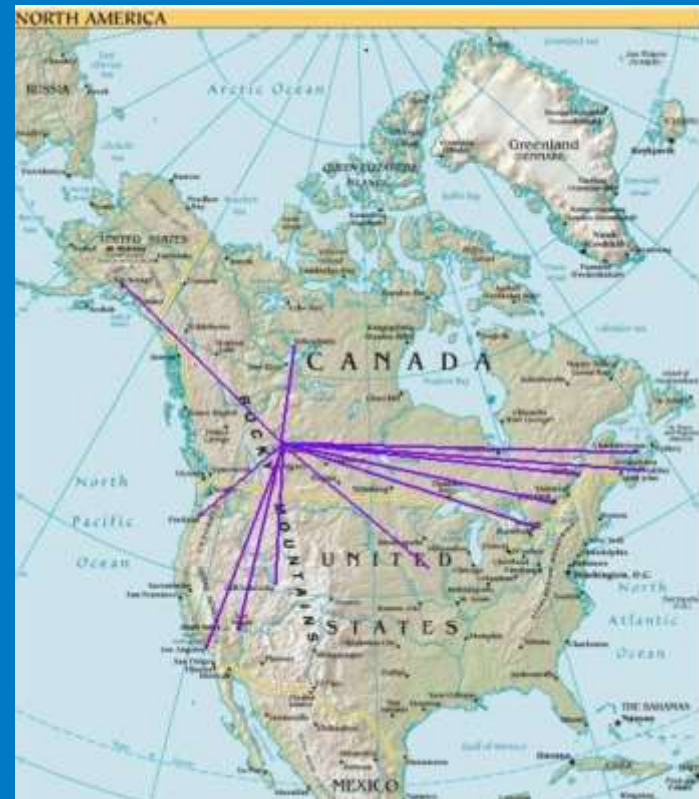
What is the Impact?

One **organ** and **tissue** donor could potentially benefit how many people requiring transplants?



The Alternatives

- We have sharing agreements across Canada
- East: St John's
- South: Houston
- North: Fairbanks
- Distant Organs Referrals
 - 2016: 65%
 - 2015: 69%



Final Thoughts

- Consider **organ** and **tissue** donation
- Talk to your family
- Make your wishes known
- Register!
- Public awareness matters

