

# Polish Medical Students' views on organ Donation in Cases of Brain Death

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## Abstract

Organ donation is a critical issue in healthcare, with the potential to save lives and improve the quality of life for many individuals. In Poland, as in many other countries, organ donation rates are often lower than desired. Understanding the views of medical students, who will be future healthcare professionals, is crucial for improving organ donation rates and ensuring ethical and effective practices. This article explores the views of Polish medical students on organ donation in cases of brain death, highlighting their perspectives, concerns, and recommendations for increasing organ donation rates.

**Keywords:** Organ donation • Healthcare system • Transplantation

## Introduction

Organ donation is a complex and sensitive issue that involves ethical, legal, and cultural considerations. In cases of brain death, where the brain has permanently ceased functioning, organs can be donated to save the lives of others. However, the decision to donate organs is often influenced by personal beliefs, cultural norms, and perceptions of the healthcare system. In Poland, as in many other countries, there is a need to understand and address the factors that influence organ donation rates. Medical students in Poland are the future healthcare professionals who will be involved in organ donation and transplantation. Understanding their views on organ donation is crucial for shaping future policies and practices. A study conducted among Polish medical students found that while the majority supported organ donation, there were concerns about the process and the way it is perceived by the public. Some students felt that the process of organ donation was not transparent, and that there was a lack of trust in the healthcare system. Others expressed concerns about the impact of organ donation on the donor's family and the ethical implications of organ transplantation [1,2].

## Literature Review

Several factors influence the views of Polish medical students on organ donation. These include religious beliefs, cultural norms, personal experiences, and perceptions of the healthcare system. Religious beliefs, in particular, play a significant role, with some students citing religious teachings that support or oppose organ donation. Cultural norms also play a role, with some students expressing concerns about the stigma associated with organ donation in Polish society. Personal experiences, such as knowing someone who has received an organ transplant, can also influence views on organ donation [3,4].

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## Discussion

To increase organ donation rates in Poland, several recommendations have been proposed. These include improving education and awareness about organ donation, addressing misconceptions and myths about the process, and improving the transparency and trustworthiness of the healthcare system. Additionally, it is important to involve religious and community leaders in discussions about organ donation, as their support can help to dispel myths and encourage more people to consider donation [5,6].

## Conclusion

The views of Polish medical students on organ donation in cases of brain death reflect a complex interplay of factors, including religious beliefs, cultural norms, and perceptions of the healthcare system. Understanding these views is crucial for developing effective strategies to increase organ donation rates in Poland. By addressing concerns and misconceptions, improving education and awareness, and involving religious and community leaders, it is possible to improve organ donation rates and save lives.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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