

Report on Teaching Sessions in Organ Transplantation

Globally, there is a rapid increase in the number of individuals who require organ transplants, while the availability of organs remains relatively limited. About 25 different organs and tissues, including the cornea, bone marrow, heart, kidney, liver, pancreas, skin, and ligaments, have the potential for transplantation. In India, approximately 500,000 people lose their lives annually due to a shortage of organs which could be met if only a quarter of the approximately 200,000 cases of brain death resulting from road traffic accidents were to donate their organs for transplantation. In response to the growing number of patients requiring organ transplants, India introduced the

'Transplantation of Human Organs Act' (THOA) in 1994.

This legislation aimed to establish an ethical framework for the extraction, storage, and transplantation of human organs for medical purposes, as well as to combat the illicit commercial trade of organs. In 2011, an amendment to the act was ratified by the parliament, leading to the formulation of revised rules in 2014. These rules brought about significant changes and provided clearer definitions for certain terms used within the act. Recognizing the positive influence that a favourable attitude and comprehensive knowledge among medical graduates could have on promoting organ donation within society, the National Medical Commission recently included formal education on the medico-legal and social aspects of organ transplantation in the medical undergraduate curriculum. In line with this, Sri Manakula Vinayagar Medical college and Hospital has taken ardent steps to educate the students on the national and state guidelines pertaining to medical, legal, ethical, and social aspects in organ transplantation procedures. Various curricular and co-curricular activities have been organised by the institution for the students highlighting on the significance of organ donation and the socio-legal and moral issues associated with organ transplantation. The instructional sessions focused on:

1. Medical issues involved in organ transplantation:

Introduction, history and time line of successful organ transplantation


Types of transplants

Major organs and tissues being transplanted

Type of donors

Principles of transplantation

Procedure of various major transplants


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Transplant rejection

Immuno-suppressive drugs

Alternatives and future developments

Conclusion

2. Legal issues involved in organ transplantation:

History of illegal organ trafficking

Consent in organ transplant

Global Laws in relation to organ transplantation

National policy

State guidelines

Transplantation of human organs and tissues rule, 2014

Authorisation committees

Transplantation registry

Offences and penalties

3. Ethical issues involved in organ transplantation:

Basic ethical principles of medicine

Ethical objections in organ transplantation

Ethics in organ allocation

Ethical issues in cadaveric organ donation of various religions

Foetal organ donations

Executed prisoners in organ transplantation

Use of stem cells and cloning in organ transplantation

4. Social issues involved in organ transplantation:

Need for organ transplantation

Benefits of organ transplantation

Cost analysis of organ transplantation


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