



*I'm organ donor,
and you?*



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Santé

Direction de la santé

Organ donation is a vital issue

Many people, men, women, children, young and old, suffer from diseases for which there is no effective treatment to cure them. At the terminal stage, when these diseases affect vital organs like the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas or intestines, it is no longer possible to sustain life and the person dies.

The only way to save the affected person is organ transplantation which is the replacement of a diseased organ with a healthy organ from a third person who died.

Who can be organ donor?

Under Luxembourgian law there is «presumed consent»: each of us is considered to be a potential donor unless stated otherwise during lifetime by writing. In practice, the medical team in charge of the potential donor, strives to discuss the donor's view towards organ donation with his family. Hence, there is need to express its decision and adopt the life passport!

Several scenarios are possible:

1. In most cases there are patients who, after an injury or severe brain injury evolve to brain death, despite the care. The diagnosis of brain death must meet clear legal criteria to witness the complete and irreversible destruction of the brain. With modern means of resuscitation, the functioning of other organs can still be maintained artificially until sampling.
2. When a patient goes into cardiac arrest, other organs are quickly damaged and cannot be transplanted in general. However, in some rare cases, the law also provides a possibility for the removal of organs from these patients.
3. Finally, living donors can give a kidney to a family member who suffers from a terminal kidney disease.

Under which conditions can we remove organs ?

Luxembourgian law determines the precise framework of the sampling conditions, especially with regards to the diagnosis of death of the donor, which is the essential criterion for sampling procedure.

Organ donation is ...

An anonymous act : the law guarantees the anonymity of the donor and the recipient.

A gratuitous act : any remuneration in exchange for one or more organs is prohibited by law .

An act of generosity and solidarity that can save lives.

Why to give ?

The need for transplants is increasing, but the number of samples is not enough to cover it. Since organ transplantation and post-transplant care are better controlled, the major barrier to transplantation currently is the shortage of organs.

In statistics of Eurotransplant, an international organisation, which manages international trade in organs, in 2011, 15,499 people were registered on different transplant waiting lists, and there were only 6536 transplant operations.

Each donation is therefore an act of solidarity and generosity that can save life .



Who is the recipient of organs ?

The organ recipient can be any one of us who need a healthy organ to continue living. There is no age limit. Eligibility on a waiting list for an organ transplant depends on many screenings, which the future transplanted must submit. Once placed on a transplant waiting list, waiting for transplantation begins. The wait can be long, sometimes too long. Each year a significant number of patients registered on waiting lists die because their organs could not be transplanted on time.

Organ transplantation

The replacement of a defective component is considered by the physician when no treatment is successful to heal the diseased organ. When a heart, liver or lung transplant is decided, it means that it has become vital for the patient: the affected organ is in such state that patient survival is not guaranteed in the short or medium term. In the case of kidney transplants, transplantation is the only alternative to dialysis and it significantly improves the quality of life and survival of patients. The allocation of organs is under responsibility of Eurotransplant and according to strict medical and logistical criteria.

Number of donors to 1,000,000 people in 2011



Take a decision

Your decision over organ donation is respectable and will be respected. Either for or against, it is important to talk to your loved ones about your will. Please, receive the life passport to confirm your choice.

Your decision will facilitate the work of medical teams, knowing that the transplant procedure is a race against the clock. Your decision will relieve your loved ones from a heavy emotional burden in a difficult and often unexpected situation.



Receive the passport of life, always keep it with you and talk to your loved ones

Order your organ donor card

At tel. 247-85569, e-mail luxtransplant@gmail.com

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For more information: www.dondorganes.lu

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