The Organ & Tissue Donation Process

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MUHC Nurse Clinicians for Organ & Tissue Donation
Conflict of Interest

I do not have an affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a commercial entity
Presentation Goals

- To promote interest in organ & tissue donation
- To provide medical and nursing staff with appropriate tools to facilitate family approach
Presentation Objectives

- To identify potential organ & tissue donors
- To recognize neurological death
- To advocate for the family’s right to be offered the option of donation
- To accept deceased donation as a standard component of end of life care
End of Life Care
Includes Donation

- To ensure that all families of patients dying from an irreversible brain injury are sensitively asked about the option to donate at the appropriate time, while supporting and respecting their individual and cultural needs, as well as their religious beliefs

- To recognize that healthcare professionals’ cultural and religious norms can affect the process
MUHC OTD Program

- A nurse clinician is available 24/7 to assist with the family approach process
- Respect the choice of the individual and/or family members
- Facilitate the donation process
- Quality assurance chart reviews and statistics
- Dissemination of up to date information on OTD for healthcare professionals and the general public
- Evidenced-based practice
Role of MUHC OTD Nurse Clinician

- Begins when a member of the treating team calls
- Meet with families who verbally express interest in OTD to explain the process
- Obtain consent
- Tailored therapeutic interventions
- End of Life Rituals
- Family bereavement support
- Debriefing and team member support
Quebec Reality

- Over 1250 individuals are awaiting transplant, an average of 50 people die every year
- The MUHC carries out more than 25% of the province’s transplants
- Quebec is the only province with a cornea transplant waiting list
Comparison of Recipient Waiting list to Realized Deceased Donors in Quebec (2004 to 2012)
## Estimated Waiting Time in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organ</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreas</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lungs</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidneys</td>
<td>1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*statistiques 2012 - Transplant Québec*
Number of Organ donors (120) by age group for 2012

Average age: 50.1 years
Causes of Organ Donor Death in 2012

- 50% Autre
- 24% AVC
- 15% Trauma crâniens (Autres)
- 9% Trauma crâniens (AVR*)
- 2% Anoxies

* Accident de véhicules routiers

Note: Les pourcentages sont arrondis à l'unité suivante.
Types of Deceased Donation

Neurological Determination of Death (NDD)
- MUST meet established criteria
- <2% of deaths
- Can donate organs & tissues

Donation after Cardiocirculatory Death (DCD)
- “Controlled” death
- ~10% of deaths
- Some organs & tissues
Definition of NDD

NDD: Neurological Determination of Death

The irreversible loss of the capacity for consciousness combined with the irreversible loss of all brainstem functions, including the capacity to breathe

(CCDT, 2003)
Definition of Controlled DCD

DCD: Donation after Cardiocirculatory Death

Patients who do not fulfill neurological criteria for death and for whom continuing medical care maybe considered futile. Death is anticipated to occur imminently upon withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy.

(CCĐT, 2006: Maastricht Category III)
Expressing the Decision to Donate

Signed donation sticker on the Medicare card

Notary Registry

RAMQ Registry
Most Importantly
Communicate Your wishes...
What Organs & Tissues can be Transplanted?

**Organs**
- Heart
- Lungs
- Kidneys
- Liver
- Pancreas
- Bowels

**Tissues**
- Corneas
- Tendons
- Skin
- Cardiac valves
- Bones
- Veins/ligaments

Organ donors can also be tissue donors
Eligibility Criteria

Review is carried out BEFORE approaching family members

• Age
• Medical history
• Travel history (if in patient's chart)
• Discussions with Transplant Québec and / or Héma-Québec prn
Tissue Donation

Ask the family if they would interested in talking about tissue donation

The Héma-Québec coordinator will take care of the rest!
Tissue Donation

**Primary Exclusion Criteria**
- Active systemic infection
- Degenerative neurological diseases
- Blood borne cancers
- HIV virus, AIDS
- Hepatitis B or C
- Sexual orientation
- Social history

**Tissue and Age Groups**
- Heart valves: birth to 60 years; min. weight 2.7 kgs (6lbs)
- Skin: 15-70 years
- Tendons: 15-60 years
- Bone: 15-70 years
- Eyes: 2-85 years
IMPORTANT!

A deceased person can still donate their corneas even if they have a solid tumor cancer with metastases
The Law and Deceased Donation

Organ & Tissue Donation
- Death is confirmed by two physicians
- Time of death on SP-3
- Provincial consent form completed by MUHC nurse clinicians
- Chart documentation

Tissue Donation
- Death is confirmed by one physician
- Provincial consent form completed by Héma-Québec coordinator
- Chart documentation
The Coroner's Role

Release of body for donation purposes is evaluated on a case by case basis

- Conditional release
- Photocopy of the patient's chart
- Autopsy
Donor Management Guidelines

Available on-line via the MUHC intranet, OTD binder and Transplant Québec’s web site
Ischemia Time to Transplant

Organ Viability

- Heart: 4 to 6 h
- Lungs: 4 to 6 h
- Pancreas: 6 to 12 h
- Liver: 12 to 16 h
- Kidneys: 24 to 48 h
A few last statistics...

The oldest

- heart donor: 66 years
- liver donor: 88 years
- kidney donor: 82 years
- lung donor: 76 years
- pancreas donor: 50 years

The youngest donor: 2 days old
A few last thoughts...

Utilize a humanistic approach

• Remember that a family needs time to accept and process what they have been told

• Each family is unique

• When a family is well supported and they understand what we are asking of them, the result will be what best suits the family
Thank You!
Merci!