TITLE: Potential donors and donation process: a retrospective study

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INTRODUCTION: Evaluation of cadaveric organ donation process is critical to increase the number of organ donor. Knowing when and why potential donors are lost could help narrowing the gap between donors and patients on waiting list.

METHODS: As a part of a quality control study for the critical care service a chart review of all the hospital death from January 2002 to December 2004 was done. Patient who died from a known neurological disease that necessitate mechanical ventilation were identified as potential donors (PD). The medical record of these patients were reviewed and the following data analysed: Age, gender, cause of death, whether OD was discussed with PD families, consent and refusal for organ donation, causes that precluded donation, number of donors, organ retrieved per donors and time delay from hospital admission to death.

RESULTS: Among the 2420 patients who died in hospital, 217 fulfilled the definition of PD. The PD Causes of death were CVA (123), trauma (85), other (9). Organ donation was discussed with the relatives of 176 PD (81%). Causes for not discussing OD were: Unknown (22), malignancies or co morbidities precluding OD (10), Absence of cerebral death (6) and other (3). Consent for OD was obtained in 106 PD. The reasons why 32 of those were excluded are: absence of cerebral death(12), malignancies and active viral diseases (9), cardiovascular collapse (5), other(6). PD with consent were younger (med 52 range 3-88) than with refusal to OD (med 63.5yo, range 12-92) $p<0.001$. 92.5% of PD with consent and 98.2% of PD with refusal to OD met death criteria inside four days of their hospital admission.

DISCUSSION: In this review of organ donation process, factors that can increase the number of donors are: 1. improving access to OD discussion to a greater number of PD relatives 2. improving consent rate by education of older population 3. offer a donation after cardiac death program. OD is a fast process because most of the patients died rapidly after their hospital admission. (within 4 days).