

Organ donation

Advances in surgical techniques, immunosuppressive drugs and supportive medical care have greatly increased the success of organ and tissue transplantation in recent decades. However, the supply of solid organs for transplantation does not match demand for them, and is not expected to do so in the future. Donation and procurement of solid organs and tissue raises a number of ethical challenges and concerns with the issue of obtaining the donor's informed and non-coerced consent being paramount amongst them.

Novartis Position

Novartis has for many years placed a high priority on developing medicines to protect and extend the lives of organ transplant recipients. Transplant surgeons, patients and families alike recognize our pioneering immunosuppressants as essential components in the "gift of life."

Novartis unequivocally supports and sponsors ethical, legal and non-commercial efforts to promote organ donation and recruit voluntary organ donors. Such efforts should be conducted in accordance with the following, clearly-defined principles: (1) free, uncoerced and informed consent of the organ donor; (2) no exchange of payment for organ donation; (3) clear evidence that the physician responsible for the care of the potential transplant recipient is not the same physician who ascertains the death of the potential organ donor. In regions where the procurement of donor organs does not fully meet these standards, we are committed to working with local authorities to ensure that these standards are adopted and observed.

Novartis strongly endorses the World Health Organization (WHO) statements on "Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation"¹, which urge member states specifically to protect the poor and vulnerable from transplant tourism and sale of tissues and organs. Novartis specifically condemns all practices for obtaining human organs that do not follow these principles as well as illegal organ trade. Novartis' policy on organ donation also recognizes the growing importance of organ donation by living donors as an acceptable means to alleviate the shortage of cadaver organs available for transplantation. Support for such altruistic donations also demands the highest standards of protection for the health and human rights of organ donors².

1. "Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation", Eighth Plenary Meeting of the World Health Assembly, 22 May 2004. Transplantation, 78 (4), p493; August 27, 2004.

November 2005

-
2. In April 2004, an international forum of experts issued “The Consensus Statement of the Amsterdam Forum on the Care of the Live Kidney Donor” which addresses the responsibilities of communities for living donors and has been adopted by the Transplantation Society. *Transplantation*, 78 (4), p491; August 27, 2004.