A Survey on Doctors’ Attitude towards Organ Donation in Brain Death Patient after Cardiac Arrest

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2010 AHA guidelines recommend we should consider organ donation in brain death patient after restoration of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) from cardiac arrest. Organ donation in brain death patient is influenced by public concern, legal factors and also specialty of physicians. This study was conducted during 1 month in 2012 to investigate doctors’ attitude towards organ donation in brain death patient after ROSC from cardiac arrest. A total of 107 residents and staffs in one urban teaching hospital were answered the questionnaire. Participants were selected from departments that frequently involved in managing brain death patients after cardiac arrest. More than 50% of responders had experiences of managing brain death patient after cardiac arrest. However, they still had difficulties in making decisions whether their patient was brain death or not, suggesting organ donation to brain death patient’s family members. There were various reasons why they felt difficult to announce brain death or to recommend organ donation. Mostly, misunderstanding and miscommunication with family members made them hard to announce brain death and recommend organ donation. To improve results of organ donation from brain death patient after cardiac arrest, further education and attitude change of doctors who are in charge of taking care of these patients will be needed.