



DID WE DO ENOUGH... FOR TISSUE DONATION?

Diana Mohd Shah*

National Transplant Resource Centre, Wisma Sejarah, Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ARTICLE INFO

Published: 26th August 2018
Corresponding author: Diana
Mohd Shah
Email: dianantrc@gmail.com

KEYWORDS

Tissue Donation;
Refusal;
Remedy

SUMMARY

Malaysia's tissue donation started in 1980's with bone marrow transplantation in University of Malaysia Medical Center (UMMC) followed by deceased tissue donation in the 1990's with the establishment of National Tissue Bank in Malaysia Science University (USM), cardiovascular tissue bank in National Heart Institute (IJN) and LION's corneal eye bank in Kuala Lumpur Hospital (HKL).

Currently, deceased tissue donation accounts for more than 80% of the nation's total deceased donation. Does that mean we did enough for the tissue donation and transplantation practice in this country? According to the International Report for Organ Donation and Transplantation (IRODAT) in 2016, compared to 68 other countries around the world, Malaysia's deceased donation rate is the lowest. In the same year, the Malaysian Department of Statistics reported a total of 85637 deaths in which 13.2 % was due to ischemic heart disease and 6.9% due to cerebrovascular diseases. This does not justify the lack of tissue donors in this country.

Aniza I and Naren *et al.* mentioned in their study that the most common reason for families of the deceased in Malaysia refuse to donate is because they did not want the deceased to suffer. On the other hand, there is a general attitude of passivity amongst healthcare professionals in approaching families of potential donors and activating the donor coordinators. This vicious cycle of outright family refusal and the passivity of healthcare professional is detrimental to the deceased donation practice in this country.

As a remedy, the nation's governing body will need to develop strategies to improve the donation rates and to include updated policy and clinical practice guidelines for the frontrunners of the wards and mortuaries. An increase in education as well as a change in attitude among healthcare professionals will help us see a change in the tissue donation rates.