

ATTITUDE TO ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Organ transplantation to save life and health of other people is almost universally accepted. According to last year's survey, 96% of adult Poles agree with it. However, acquisition of organs from the dead is not sufficiently effective. One reason are the imperfect medical procedures and organization on the level of clinics. Another problem is refusal by family members.

According to the declarations, the majority of respondents (74%) agree to donate their organs after death, while one-seventh (15%) are opposed. Compared to recent surveys (2009 and 2011) the number of people willing to donate organs has decreased.



The responses indicate that three-quarters of Poles (75%) did not talk to relatives about organ donation after death, whereas a quarter (24%) communicated their decision.



Although the Polish law restricts the role of the family in acquiring organs (if a person did not explicitly refuse to donate, the default situation is agreement), a refusal by family members influences the medical practice. If they protest, the removal of the organ is usually abandoned. Three quarters of respondents (76%) believe every person should decide about one's organs after death, while less than one-fifth (18%) think that the family should have this right.



If they knew that the deceased was not opposed to donating organs, a vast majority (83%) would not oppose it themselves. Conversely, if the deceased had opposed donation, three-quarters (76%) would follow his or her will. If nothing were known about the will of the deceased, almost three-fifths (62%) would not oppose the acquisition of the organ, while one-fifth (22%) would be against.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude to organ transplantation", August 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2012, N=3793. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.