

BRAIN DEATH AND ORGAN DONATION: ETHICAL CONFLICTS LIVED BY FAMILIES OF DONORS IN DECISION MAKING.

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Abstract

Introduction: The issue of brain death and organ donation is increasingly present in the daily lives of many families around the world. Thus, the sudden death of a loved one can be identified as one of life's most stressful experiences and, in the face of the complexity of such a situation this event can generate difficulties and fears, making the donation of organs and tissues for transplantation something very difficult for the relatives of the deceased. This event may trigger ethical conflicts in the decision-making process.

Objective: To know the experience of relatives of deceased donors in the decision-making regarding the possibility of donation of organs of the loved one with diagnosis of brain death.

Method: Qualitative research, with a social phenomenology approach, carried out with eight relatives of deceased donors.

Results: The experiences of family members were represented by: difficulties and fears of the death of the loved one; ethical conflicts in the decision-making regarding the possibility of donating organs of the loved one; respecting the desire of the loved one and being in peace with the decision taken.

Conclusion: The present study allowed us to understand the experience of relatives of patients with a diagnosis of brain death in view of the possibility of organ donation and ethical conflicts in decision-making. The concerns that permeated the decision-making process were unveiled. The knowledge that emerged from the experience of these individuals offers subsidies to health professionals, who work in different realities, signaling strategies to improve care for these family members.

KEYWORDS: Brain Death; Organ Donation; Family Conflict; Decision-making; Ethic.