

Shortcomings in the management of public health imply a low rate of transplantation in a Brazilian northeast province

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Statement of purpose and Context: Brazilian northeast shows huge contrasts concerning kidney transplantation (KT) realization. Some provinces perform more KT than others. Besides the difficulty in obtaining organs, there is the possibility of shortcomings in the management of public health. Alagoas is one of those provinces that presents one of the lowest rates in KT in Brazil. The aim of this study is to know if the public health managers are responsible for the low rate of KT.

Research question: Would the public health managers of Alagoas be responsible for the low rate of KT?

Significance: Pointing difficulties in the management of public health to the realization of KT in a Brazilian northeast province.

Methods: It was performed a qualitative study, carried out through an open, structured face-to-face interview with the public health managers from the Secretariat of Health in the state of Alagoas; coordinators of nephrology clinics and hospitals; and the representative from the Alagoas Chronic Renal Patients Association.

Key findings: Fourteen interviews were performed with the research participants. It was patent the lack of compliance with Brazilian law related to the transplant. It's remarkable the authorities' lack of knowledge about the transplantation program; the use of administrative professionals who don't know the national program for transplantation; lack of structure dedicated to transplantation (care and diagnostic means); and also a scanty quantity of teams for searching for donors; financial dissatisfaction.

Importance/implications: Shortcomings in the management of public health concerning KT assume an important role regarding the low quantity of KT performed and, due to this, those who need kidney transplants in Alagoas are even more vulnerable.