

President's Message

Organ transplants offer patients a new chance of living healthy, productive, and normal lives and return them to their families, friends and communities. You have the power to change someone's world by being a donor. It's about living.... It's about life.

As we are already aware, a vast majority of kidney patients do not get a chance to live a disease-free life but have to be satisfied with life-long supportive treatment in the form of dialysis in one form or the other. This is due to the poor acceptance of the concept of ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION among the masses.

As on today < 5 % renal failure patients in India undergo renal transplant surgery. In a city like Mumbai, for example, only about 20 cadaver transplants were done in the entire last year. This can only be blamed on poor patient awareness about organ donation.

According to the "Human Organs Transplantation Act" (HOTA) of 1994, cadaver organ donation is legalized. A cadaver donor is one who has undergone brain death during unfortunate events such as accidents but has the other organs functioning adequately. Under this act multiple organs can be harvested from such a donor and include the kidneys, liver, pancreas, lungs etc. However, only about 20 renal and hardly any liver transplants were carried out last year, leave alone pancreas and lungs. This is a very sad state because in a city with such a massive population strength and high literacy, 20 transplants annually is a pity. The stress should now be laid on educating the masses about the importance of organ donation. And the best medium to do the same is through all of us and moreover, the general practitioners who are the first level of patient interaction.

As the president of The Mumbai Kidney Foundation, I pledge to venture ahead in spreading awareness about the need and importance of organ donation and also invite you to lend a helping hand in trying to make better the life of a needy patient..... because together we can make a difference.

Whatever you give away today, or think or say or do...

will multiply about tenfold and return to you....

Let that thought and this one direct us through each day,

The only things we ever keep are the things we give away.....

ORGAN DONATION...the seeds for a better life..

- Dr. Anil Suchak