

# Myths and Realities of Organ Donation

# Ten most common myths

## 1. Organ and tissue donation mutilates the body

- organs are removed with a single incision
- most of the time internal organs are removed for donation
- eyes are replaced with artificial eyeballs

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## 2. Religion bars organ donation

- 22 major religion in the world
- none of them prohibits organ donation
- rather they support organ donation to save human lives
- may be discussed with our religious leaders

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3. The donor's family is charged for donating organs

- cost of organ harvesting is borne by the hospital/government

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4. If the doctors know I'm an organ donor, they won't work hard to save me

- saving your life is the first responsibility for a doctor
- treating team and organ harvesting/transplantation teams are independent
- till you have agreed for donation, transplant team will not be knowing about your status

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## 5. What if I recover from brain death?

- It is not possible
- brain death declaration are based on very strict criteria
- no one, declared as brain dead, have every survived till date

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## 6. Donated organs are preferably diverted to rich/famous/influential people

- Organ sharing are very stringently monitored and are guided by the regulations laid by the GOI
- It is not possible for any one to break the que

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## 7. I'm too old to donate?

- age is commonly not a bar for organ donation
- physician will decide about the fitness of the donated organ before harvesting the organ
- commonly upto 80 years, organ donation can be done



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## 8. Organ donation is not needed in India

~300 people die daily in lack of organ transplantation

~400 people die daily due to accident in India (potential organ donors)

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## 9. Coma and brain dead are same

- coma is a reversible condition and brain is working
- brain dead in an irreversible condition and brain has stopped working
- coma people are not taken for organ donation
- only brain dead people can donate organs

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## 10. I will not have that organ on rebirth

- organ are the part of our physical body
- entire physical body is left here after our death
- organs may be lost while living, e.g., amputation due to accident