

Exploring Challenges: Key Contraindications in Organ Donation in Colombia

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Introduction:

The scarcity of organs for transplant has led to an increase in mortality among patients on waiting lists.

Understanding the causes of contraindication of potential donors allows the creation of strategies to improve organ utilization.

The aim is to describe the causes of contraindications of potential donors of the organ donation critical pathway in Colombia.

Methods:

Retrospective cross-sectional, descriptive study

1451 potential organ donors on 3 regions, assessed in 2022 by Fundación Donar Colombia*

Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics, contraindication causes were obtained

Descriptive analytics were performed

Chi-square test were performed for categorical variables



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Fundación Donar Colombia is a private Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) that operates in 3 of the 6 regions of Colombia colombianadetrasplantes.com

Table 1. Characterization of the group of potencial donors assessed by Fundonar Colombia in 2022 on three regions of Colombia

Results:

	All potential donors				Contraindicated			
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 5	Total	Region 1	Region 2	Region 5	Total
Total	694	433	324	1451	359	238	252	849
Sex*								
Masculine	399	301	199	899	206	158	146	510
Feminine	295	132	125	552	153	80	106	339
Age group*								
0-5	16	9	9	34	13	8	9	30
6-12	12	7	5	24	8	5	5	18
13-18	24	19	16	59	11	9	10	30
19-40	190	147	109	446	88	66	74	228
41-65	316	186	131	633	141	94	104	339
>65	136	65	54	255	98	56	50	204
Neurologic diagnosis								
Hemorrhagic stroke	319	140	140	599	153	80	110	343
Traumatic brain injury	177	193	81	451	75	81	49	205
Ischemic stroke	79	28	31	138	40	18	25	83
Hypoxia	60	27	41	128	40	16	38	94
Brain tumor	30	20	21	71	27	20	21	68
Unknown	4	2	8	14	4	2	8	14
Other	25	23	2	50	20	21	1	42
*Statistically significant differences between groups								

Table 2. Medical causes of contraindication of potencial donors assessed by Fundonar Colombia in 2022 on three regions of Colombia

Results:

Medical Contraindication	Region 1	Region 2	Region 5	Total n (%)
Multi-organ failure - hemodynamic instability	154	30	63	247 (30.5)
Comorbidities, past medical history	37	77	63	177 (21.9)
Failure to complete the diagnosis	36	29	65	130 (16.1)
Confirmed or suspected neoplasia	54	32	30	116 (14.3)
Sepsis, infection or suspected infection	31	33	12	76 (9.4)
Age	10	10	5	25 (3.1)
Unknown cause of death	4	1	4	9 (1.1)
COVID-19 confirmed	5	2	0	7 (0.9)
De novo or untreated HIV	0	4	1	5 (0.62)
Risk behaviors	2	1	0	3 (0.4)
Hemodilution	2	1	0	3 (0.4)
Impossibility of family approach	2	0	1	3 (0.4)
Requirement for clinical autopsy	1	1	1	3 (0.4)
Suspected/risk of SARS-Cov-2 infection	0	2	1	3 (0.4)
Homelessness	1	1	0	2 (0.2)
Total	339	224	246	809 (100)

Conclusions:

- 58.8% of potential donors were contraindicated, main causes were medical type (96.0%), with fewer due to medico-legal (3.88%) and logistical issues (0.12%).
- Only 10% of reported patients became effective donors, indicating a need to reassess exclusion criteria to increase organ availability.
- Establishing the causes of contraindications for potential organ donors allows to design specific actions to reduce the loss of donors and improve donation and transplantation rates

