

Epidemiological characterization of organ and tissue donor alerts

at San Juan de Dios General Hospital, Guatemala, January 2021 - February 2024

Cindy J Ixpancoc^{1,2}, Rudolf Garcia-Gallont¹

¹ Organ and Tissue Donation Unit, of the San Juan de Dios General Hospital, Guatemala

² Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of San Carlos of Guatemala

INTRODUCTION:

Organ donation from deceased source is still an underrated action in Guatemala. However, hospital processes are gradually improving, largely due to the increasing knowledge and skills of physicians, particularly in the recognition of donor alerts and the management of brain death cases in critical care units and emergency areas.

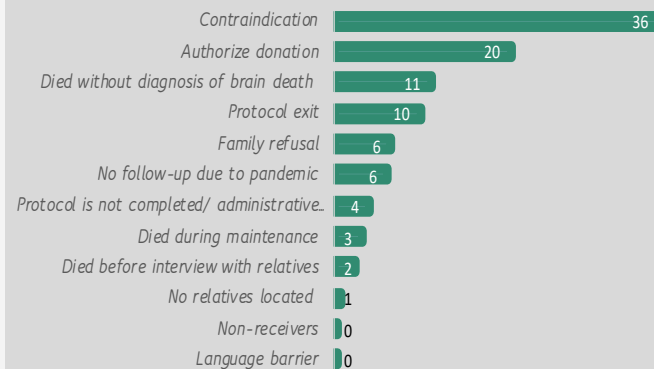
METHOD:

This descriptive, cross-sectional study analyzed donor alerts received between January 2021 and February 2024. Data were collected from the Organ and Tissue Donation Unit's database, focusing on sociodemographic and clinical variables.

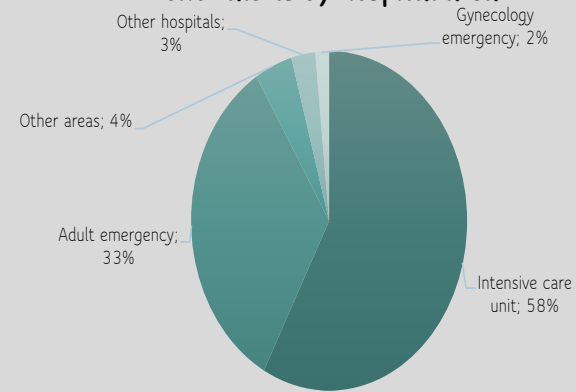
RESULTS:

A total of 249 donor alerts were attended to, most of whom were between 22 and 45 years old. 55% of the cases met the clinical criteria for brain death, of which 23% of the cases accepted organ donation, 46% of whom were effective donors. Of the 26% of patients who died due to cardiorespiratory arrest, 38% authorized corneal donation. Most donor alerts were generated by the intensive care unit (58%) and adult emergency area (33%). During the follow-up evaluation, 36% of the cases presented medical contraindications. Refusal to donate was 6% of the cases, and the most common reason was "hope for a miracle." Of the effective donations, 42% donated kidneys and corneas, 36% kidneys and 22% corneas. The main reason for refusing to donate corneas was the community's criticism of the donation.

Monitoring of potential organ or tissue donor alerts, (%)



Donor alerts by hospital area



CONCLUSION:

Donor alerts increased by 200% during the study period compared to previous years. The improved clinical diagnosis of brain death by physicians contributed to achieving a 20% rate of effective donation, with only 6% of families refusing consent. The appointment of a transplant coordinator significantly enhanced the number of effective donors. Support from health authorities is crucial to improving organ donation in Guatemala.

REFERENCE:

Correa Tello, Karen Jaisure. Caracterización de los donantes potenciales, efectivos y factores relacionados con el desenlace de la donación de órganos y tejidos en el departamento del tolima, 2012 - 2015, 2016, repository.ut.edu.co/server/api/core/bitstreams/493394f1-cb00-4be0-9d97-789e6933b4b7/content. Accessed 2 Feb. 2024.

Experts have no conflict of interest.

CONTACT:

cindyixpancoc@gmail.com / garciaqallont@gmail.com





Sumate a dar vida

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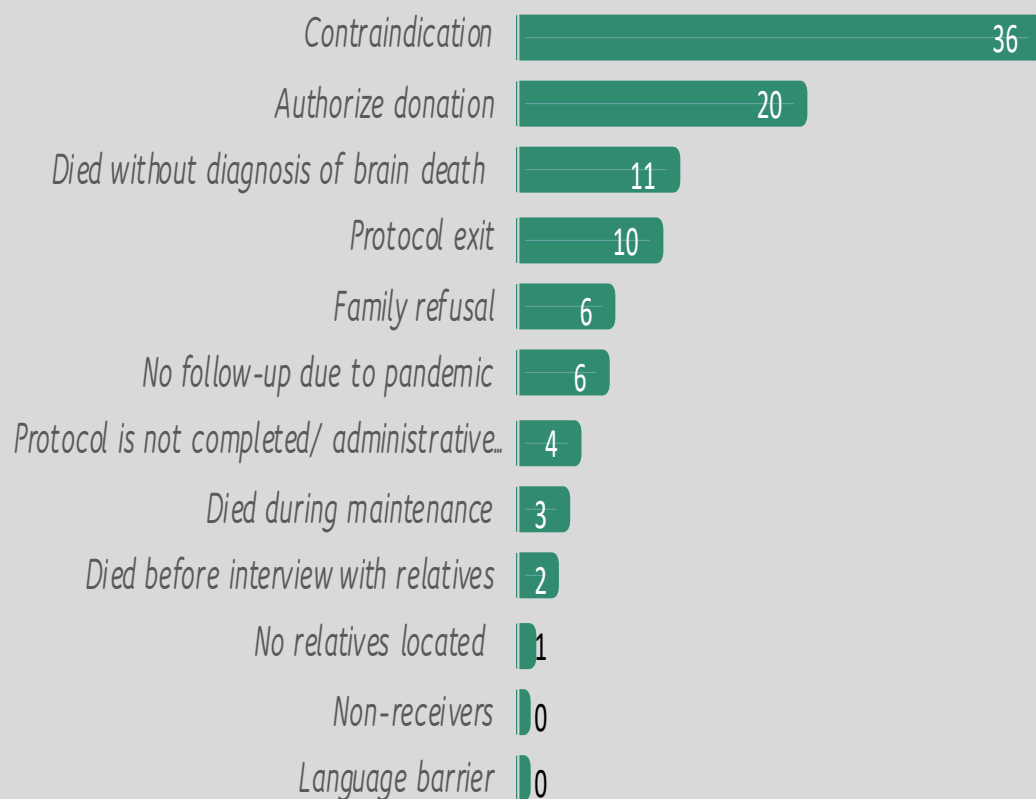
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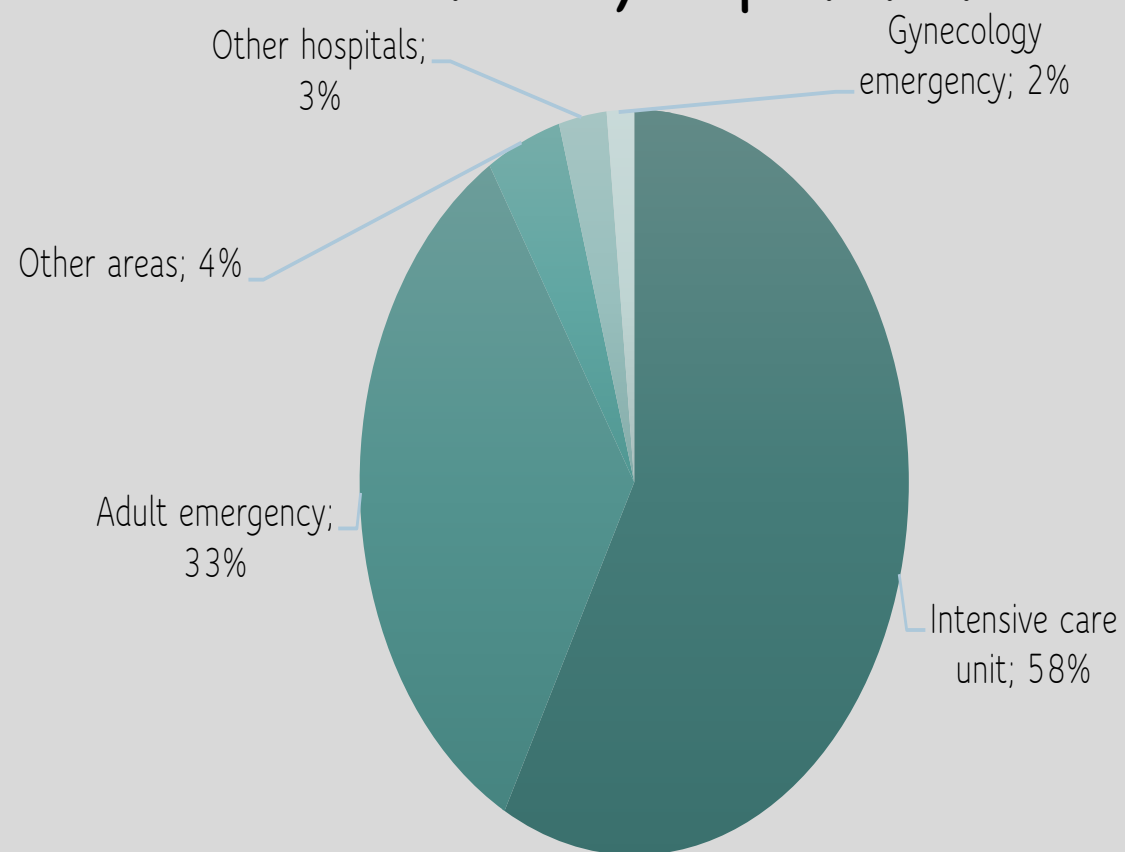


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