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Expansion of donation after circulatory death in Asian country

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INTRODUCTION

The **hot topic** in the transplantation community : how to solve the **organ shortage**.

Differences between the West and the East in the supply of organs

- the West, deceased donors are the mainstay,
- the East, relatively many living donors.

the East is more interested in deceased donors.

- for living related donors, **donor safety** is sensitive issue as time passes,
- the limitation of expanding of living related donors is increasing.

New breakthroughs are needed in the East

- recently, donation from brain-dead people have shown signs of stagnation or even a slight decline,
- organ **donation after circulatory death (DCD)** are being actively discussed again in Korea and other Asian country

METHODS

Journals and articles were reviewed



Obstacles of DCD in Korea (religious, social and cultural factors),

- **Confucianism** makes reluctance to donate organs after death.
- **Vague fear of organ procurement procedure** takes role in hesitating organ donation.
- **Insufficient social awareness** is another negative factor to expand organ donation.
- **Legal restriction and complicated procedure of donation** take a role in obstructing approach of potential donors.

For the improvement of donation of deceased donor, members of transplantation society and related organization make efforts in diverse aspects for solving the above obstacles.

- **Legislation** revision of donation including **after circulatory death** is suggested continuously for acceptance of **self decision and opt out system**.
- **Public relations** are tried to improve social awareness by public and private organization.
- **Education** for the public and professional group are in progress.

These endeavors were based on the relatively advanced experiences and cases of the West.

Although the efforts of experts and the interest of related organizations are encouraging, there is currently **no realistic and concrete alternatives** that will attract social interest and lead to actual donation.

There may be needed **new direction or way** for solving this stagnation.

Seeking to promote DCD in various aspects is expected to be an important factor in the future development of donation in Asian countries.

DISCUSSION

The discussion should be begun with **understanding the realistic situation or psychological reasons** that lead to feelings of reluctance. This is about **meaning of life and death of donors and bereaved families**.

This is not the technical aspects but the philosophy or social empathy.

The history of donation in Korea is not long compare to West.

Particularly organ donation after death is more complicated field to understand or to be improved in a society.

Nevertheless, **the national characteristics and the advancement of the younger generation's thinking** have great potential for development in perspectives of organ donation.

There are debates in definition of death according to nation, culture and religion etc.

so, donation after circulatory death has limitation to elicit public empathy in this aspect.

but like the intention of living related donor, understanding of potential donors and bereaved families to **meaning of donation in impending death** can be a key to solve the problems

CONCLUSION

The lack of organ supply should be discussed from the **donor's perspective**, not from a statistical or recipient perspective.

When the **donor's death are meaningful** and the donation finds true meaning, the recipient's transplant and new life also become true.

In order to promote DCD, changes are needed in the improvement methods of medical professionals and related personnel, and this should be approached from the **perspective of members of society who can be potential donors and bereaved families.**

