

# **Organ Donor Management**

**Ali Ashraf**

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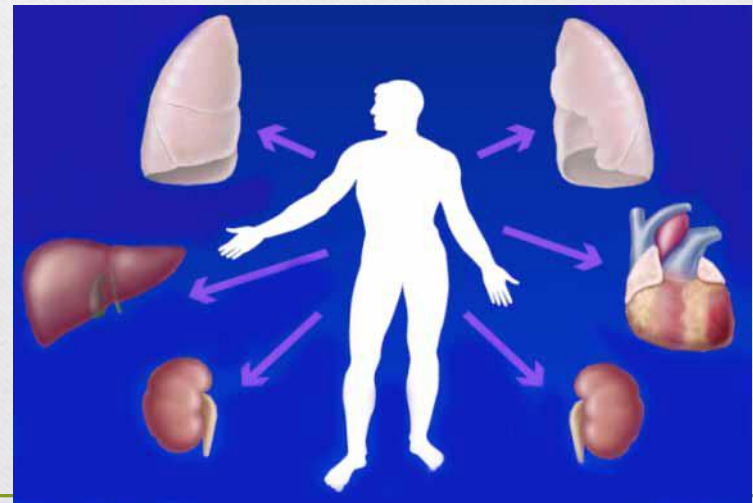
**Intensivist AFSA DIU**

**Brain Death confirmation team**

**University of Guilan**

# Organ Donor Management

- Advances in transplant surgical techniques and immunosuppressive therapies have led to increasingly more patients with end-stage organ failure being treated with a transplant.





# The Organ Donation Process



Hospital  
Services

Community  
Outreach

Identification  
& Early  
Referral  
Based on  
Clinical  
Triggers

Suitability  
Donor Mgmt.

Brain Death  
Declared  
Donation After  
Cardiac Death  
Assessment

Family  
Support  
Huddle  
Effective  
Requesting  
Medical/Soc  
History

Coroner  
Clearance  
Organ Placement  
Organ/Tissue  
Recovery



# What is Transplantable for Adults?

## ORGANS

- Kidneys
- Liver
- Heart
- Lungs
- Pancreas
- Sm. Intestine

## TISSUES

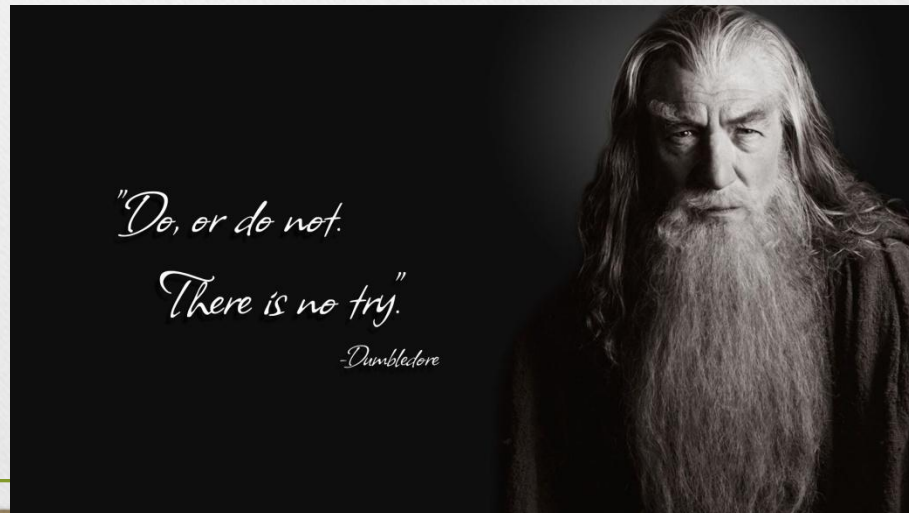
- Cornea/Eyes
- Heart Valves
- Veins
- Skin
- Bone
- Tendons
- Cartilage



# Organ Donor Management

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- Donor organs are scarce and the success rate of transplantation depends on appropriate management of the organ donor.





# Diagnosing and Declaring Brain Death

# Etiology of Brain Death

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- Severe head trauma
- Aneurismal subarachnoid hemorrhage
- Cerebrovascular injury
- Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy
- Fulminant hepatic necrosis
- Prolonged cardiac resuscitation or asphyxia
- Tumors

R. Erff, D.O., *Walter Reed Army Medical Center*



# Prerequisites to the Diagnosis

Evidence of acute CNS catastrophe  
compatible with brain death:

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- Clinical or Neuroimaging



# Prerequisites to the Diagnosis

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## Exclusion of reversible medical conditions

- Severe electrolyte, acid base and endocrine disturbance
- drug intoxication and poisoning
- sedation and neuromuscular blockade
- Hypotension
- severe hypothermia (core temp < 35 C)

# Brain Stem Reflexes

- No pupillary response to light.
- Pupils midline and dilated 4-6mm.
- No oculoccephalic reflex (Doll's eyes)
- No oculovestibular reflex (tonic deviation of eyes toward cold stimulus) – contraindicated in ear trauma.
- Absence of corneal reflexes
- Absence of gag reflex and cough to tracheal suction.



# Brain Stem Reflexes

## Brain death



Supraorbital pressure

Open your eyes

Coma: no response to voice, pain, or other stimuli

Feels for breath on cheek



No spontaneous respiration



Pupils dilated, unresponsive to light



Ice water in ear: eyes do not move



"Doll's eyes": head turned sharply to side, eyes remain centered



Corneal reflex lost

**HealthTipsInsurance.com**

*F. Netter M.D.*  
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# Apnea Testing

- Once coma and absence of brain stem reflexes have been confirmed → **Apnea testing**.
- Verifies loss of most rostral brain stem function
- Confirmed by **PaCO<sub>2</sub> > 60mmHg** or **PaCO<sub>2</sub> > 20mmHg** over baseline value.
- Testing can cause hypotension, severe cardiac arrhythmias and elevated ICP.
- Therefore, apnea testing is performed last in the clinical assessment of brain death.
- Consider **confirmatory tests** if apnea test inconclusive.



# Apnea Testing

- Following conditions **must** be met before apnea test can be performed:
  - Core temp  $> 36.5$  C
  - Systolic blood pressure  $> 100$ mmHg.
  - Euvolemia
  - Corrected diabetes insipidus
  - Normal PaCO<sub>2</sub> ( PaCO<sub>2</sub> 35 - 45 mmHg).
  - Preoxygenation (PaO<sub>2</sub>  $> 200$ mmHg).

# Confirmatory Testing

- *Purely optional* when the clinical criteria are met unambiguously.
- A confirmatory test is needed for patients in whom specific components of clinical testing cannot be reliably evaluated
  - Incomplete brain stem reflex testing
  - Incomplete apnea testing
  - Toxic drug levels
  - Children younger than 1 year old.
  - Required by institutional policy

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# Confirmatory Tests for Brain Death

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- Cerebral Blood Flow (CBF) Studies
  - Cerebral Angiography
  - Nuclear Flow Study
- EEG (when brain scan is not utilized)

# Cerebral Angiography



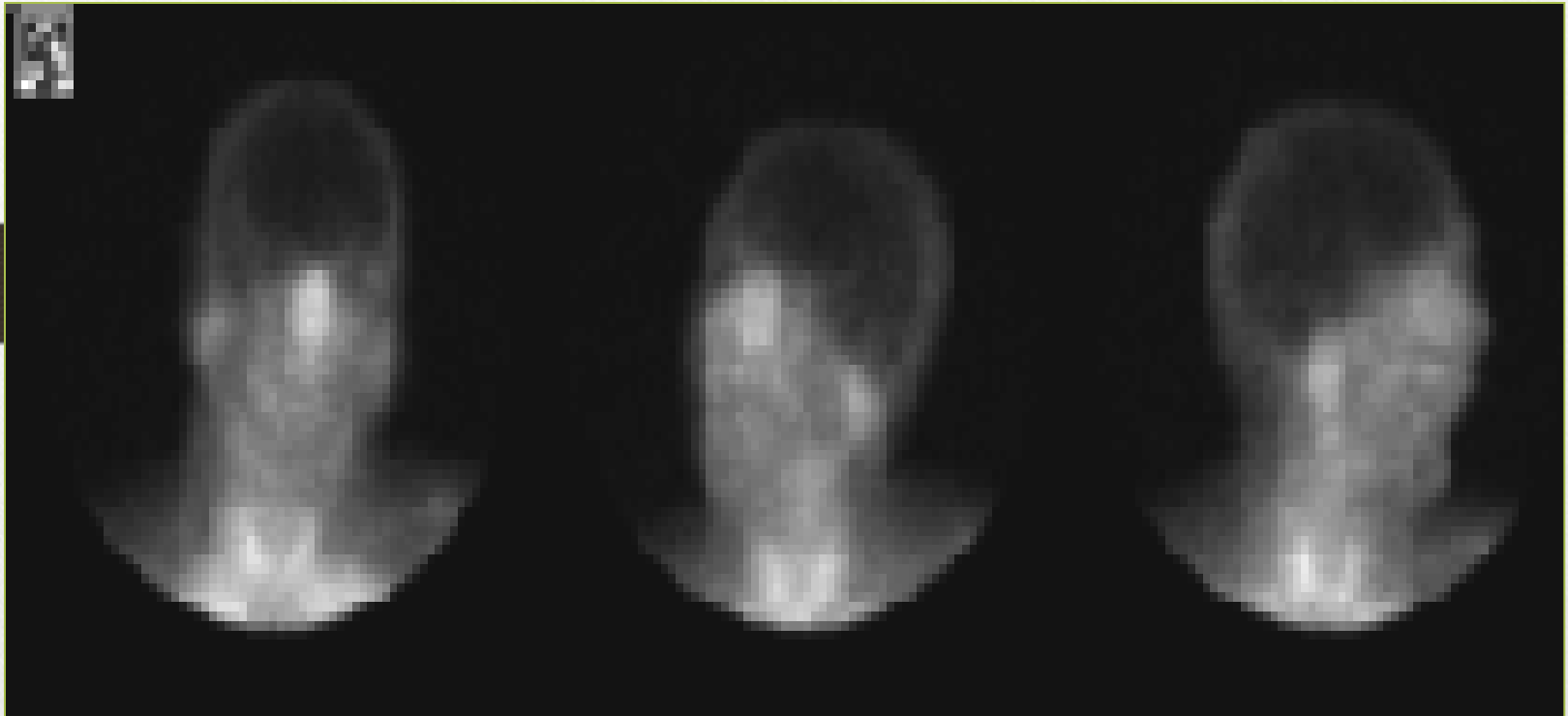
**Normal Blood Flow**



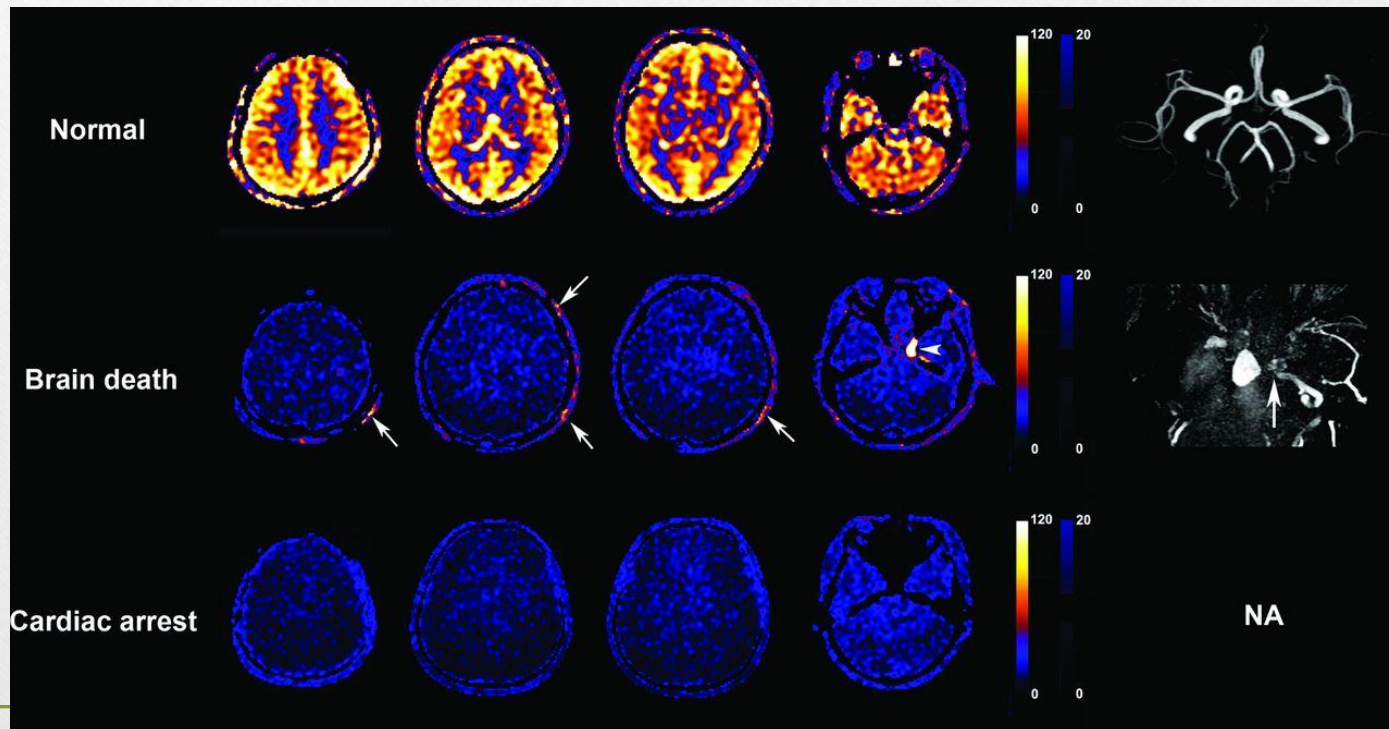
**No Blood Flow**



# Nuclear Flow Study



# Arterial Spin-Labeling



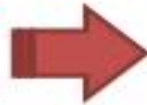


# Elements of brain death declaration

- Date
- Time
- Detailed documentation of Clinical Exam including specifics of Apnea Testing
- Physician signature



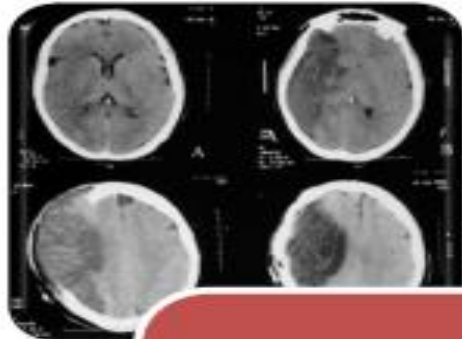
↑ ICP  
(Cushing Reflex)



"Catecholamine storm"



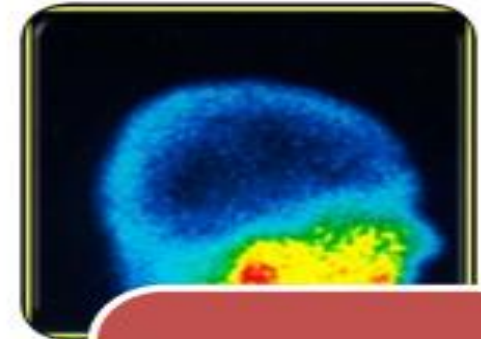
"Brain death"



- Hypertension
- Bradycardia
- AVB / S Arrest



- Tachycardia / Arythmias
- Coronary ischemia
- Miocardic Lesion
- ATP depletion
- ↑ PW Pressure
- Hypertension



- Loss of Symp tone
- Periferic VD



# What to expect after brain death

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# Autonomic/Sympathetic Storm

- Release of catecholamines from adrenals (Epinephrine and Norepinephrine) results in a hyper-dynamic state:
  - Tachycardia
  - Elevated C.O.
  - Vasoconstriction
  - Hypertension





## Decline in Organ Function after Brain Death

### Physiologic Changes

Hemodynamic Instability  
Inflammatory response

- Capillary leak
- Coagulopathy

Volume depletion  
Hypothermia  
Hormonal Abnormalities

Pre-existing Co-morbidities  
&  
Associated Injury (trauma)

***Organ Dysfunction  
(Loss of Opportunity to Donate)***

### Treatments

- Mannitol
- Steroids
- Volume Resuscitation

Outcomes are better with organs obtained from live donors compared to organs from brain-dead donors as these physiologic insults are avoided



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# Pathophysiology

- Loss of **brain stem function** results in systemic physiologic instability:

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- Loss of vasomotor control → hypotention
- Cardiac arrhythmias → 25% cardiac arrest
- Loss of respiratory function → Apnea
- Loss of temperature regulation → hypothermia
- Hormonal imbalance



# Following the diagnosis of Brain Death

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- ✓ Therapy shifts in emphasis from cerebral resuscitation to optimizing organ fxn for subsequent transplantation.

# Following the diagnosis of Brain Death

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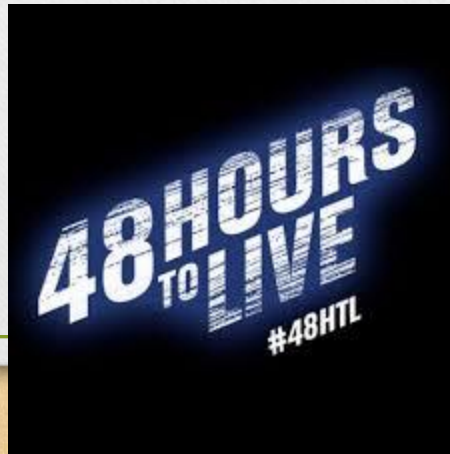
- The normal sequelae of brain death results in cardiovascular instability & poor organ perfusion.



# Medical staff must focus on:

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- Providing hemodynamic stabilization.
  - Support of body homeostasis.
  - Maintenance of adequate cellular oxygenation and donor organ perfusion.
- ✓ Circulatory collapse will usually occur within 48hrs.



# Basic Standard monitoring:

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- Fluid intake and output
- Hourly urine output
- Pulse oximetry
- ECG
- Temperature
- Arterial blood pressure
- Central venous pressure



# Laboratory investigations:

*12 hrly (+ more often if clinically indicated)*

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- Full blood count
- Urea and electrolytes
- Liver enzymes, INR (or PT) and APPT
- Blood glucose, arterial blood gases at least 6 hrly
- Daily blood cultures, cultures of sputum and urine

# Effective Donor Management

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- Requires clinical expertise, vigilance, flexibility, and the ability to address multiple complex clinical issues simultaneously and effectively.
- Requires collaboration among the OPO, donor hospital critical care staff and consultants, and transplant program staff.



# Effective Donor Management

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- Donor care is not usually assumed until after consent for donation has been obtained.
- It is appropriate to collaborate prior to brain death, consent, etc, to prevent death and keep the option of organ donation open.

# Effective Donor Management

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- Revision of existing orders or placement of new medical orders is intended to:
- D/C medications no longer needed or appropriate (e.g., anticonvulsants, mannitol, sedatives, antipyretics)
- Continue needed medications, or therapy (e.g., vasoactive drug infusions, IV fluids and vent settings)
- Create “call orders” that inform bedside personnel of the goals for physiologic parameters and alert OPC of changes in donor status.



**Table 1** Incidence of common physiological derangements in brain-dead donors

Derangement	Cause
Hypothermia	Hypothalamic damage; reduced metabolic rate; vasodilation and heat loss
Hypotension	Vasoplegia; hypovolaemia; reduced coronary blood flow; myocardial dysfunction
Diabetes insipidus	Posterior pituitary damage
Disseminated intravascular coagulation	Tissue factor release; coagulopathy
Arrhythmias	'Catecholamine storm'; myocardial damage; reduced coronary blood flow
Pulmonary oedema	Acute blood volume diversion; capillary damage

# Hypotension:

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- This occurs commonly after brain death. Consider the following causes:
- *Absolute hypovolaemia*
- *Effective hypovolaemia*
- *Myocardial dysfunction*



# *Absolute hypovolaemia:*

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- Incomplete resuscitation following trauma
- Osmotic diuresis secondary to mannitol or hyperglycaemia.
- Diabetes insipidus with massive diuresis.

## *Effective hypovolaemia:*

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- ‘Neurogenic shock’ with loss of central vasomotor control and subsequent decrease in systemic vascular resistance.
- Rewarming of a hypothermic patient with resultant vasodilatation.



# *Myocardial dysfunction:*

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- Secondary to trauma and myocardial contusion.
- massive catecholamine surge

# Hypertension:

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- During the period of brain stem 'coning' acute arterial hypertension may occur related to increased intracranial pressure.
- Following brain death, patients may develop hypertension in response to noxious stimuli.



# General principles:

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- (1) Ensure the patient is adequately volume loaded but not overloaded.
- a combination of crystalloid and colloid
- Avoid nephrotoxic fluids e.g. dextrans (and possibly hydroxyethyl starch).

# IV Fluids

۱-۲ لیتر بولوس نرمال سالین یا رینگرحتی در صورت وجود هیپرناترمی در اولین برخورد با مرگ مغزی با افت فشار داده شود

پس از درمان بولوس اولیه، مایعات بیمار بر اساس سدیم بیمار (جهت محاسبه حجم از دست رفته بر اثر دیابت بیمزه ناشی از کمبود هورمون ADH) ، حجم ادرار و Insensible Water Loss محاسبه میشود

اگر حجم مایعاتی که بیمار باید دریافت کند زیاد است لازم است حداقل ۱/۳ آن از مایعات کلوئید باشد

- **وازوپرسورها**

دوپامین داروی انتخابی است. اگر بیمار به بیشتر از ۱۰ میکروگرم به ازای کیلوگرم به دوپامین نیاز داشت داروی بعدی را اضافه می کنیم



# IV Fluids

- بعد از بولوس اولیه، مایع نگهدارنده شامل سدیم کلراید ۰.۴۵٪ یا ۰.۲٪ می باشد. به دلیل عدم وجود سدیم کلراید ۰.۲٪ در ایران در موارد هیپرناترمی شدید و مقاوم گاهی می توان با احتیاط از دکستروز ۵٪ استفاده کرد. بدیهی است هیپوکالمی و هیپرگلیسمی با این سرم تشدید خواهد شد که باید مراقب آن بود
- داخل سرمها بر حسب میزان پتاسیم معمولاً  $\text{KCL } 20 \text{ mEq}$  در هر لیتر لازم است.
- در سرم بولوس اولیه نباید پتاسیم اضافه کرد
- معمولاً سرعت انفوزیون مایعات  $2 \text{ ml/kg/hr}$  می باشد

# Most patients need vasopressors

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- *Pure vasopressors:*

Vasopressin, phenylephrine

- *Vasopressors with beta-agonist activity:*  
noradrenaline, adrenaline, dopamine
- *Beta agonists:*  
dobutamine



# CARDIOVASCULAR



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# Vasopressin (AVP, Pitressin)

- Low dose shown to reduce inotrope use
- Plays a critical role in restoring vasomotor tone

## Vasopressin Protocol

- ✓ 4 unit bolus
- ✓ 1- 4 u/hour — titrate to keep SBP >100 or MAP >60



# • Noradrenaline

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- is most commonly used, with doses adjusted to maintain mean blood pressure  $> 70$  mmHg.
- If dopamine is used maximum dose should be  $\leq 10$  microgram/kg/min.

**Table 2** Suggested cardiovascular goals for the active management of potential organ donors<sup>38</sup>

Parameter	Target
Heart rate	60–120 beats min <sup>-1</sup>
Arterial pressure	Systolic pressure >100 mm Hg Mean pressure ≥ 70 mm Hg
Central venous pressure	6–10 mm Hg
Urine output	0.5–3 ml kg <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup>
Electrolytes	Serum sodium 130–150 mmol litre <sup>-1</sup> Normal potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphate Glucose 4–8 mmol litre <sup>-1</sup>
Blood gases	pH: 7.35–7.45 $Pa_{CO_2}$ : 4.7–6 kPa $Pa_{O_2}$ : ≥10.7 kPa $Sp_{O_2}$ saturation ≥95%
If pulmonary artery catheter inserted	
Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure	6–10 mm Hg
Cardiac index	2.4 litre min <sup>-1</sup> m <sup>-2</sup>
Systemic vascular resistance	800–1200 dyn s cm <sup>-5</sup>

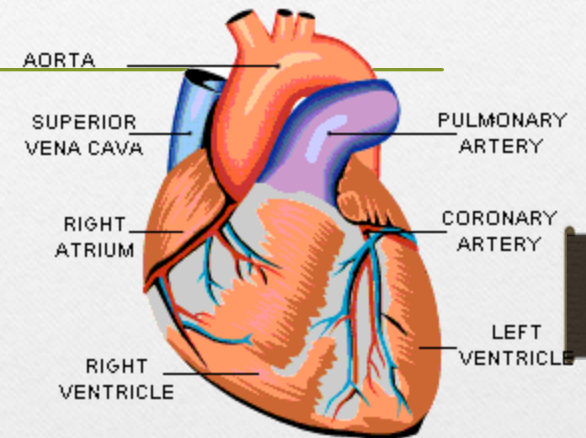




# Cardiovascular System

## Intensive care management

- “Rules of 100’s”
  - Maintain SBP > 100mmHG
  - HR < 100 BPM
  - UOP > 100ml/hr
  - PaO<sub>2</sub> > 100mmHg
- Aggressive fluid resuscitative therapy directed at restoring and maintaining intravascular volume. SBP > 90mmHg (MAP > 60mmHg) or CVP ~ 10 mmHg.





# Neurogenic Pulmonary Edema



- ✓ Lungs are highly susceptible to injury resulting from the rapid changes that occur during the catecholamine storm
- ✓ Left-sided heart pressures exceed pulmonary pressure,
- ✓ lung tissue is severely injured,
- ✓ interstitial edema and alveolar hemorrhage

# *Respiratory management*

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- Pulmonary dysfunction is common in the organ donor due to pneumonia
- aspiration of gastric contents
- neurogenic pulmonary oedema
- pulmonary trauma or ALI / ARDS (which may be secondary to brain injury)



# *Respiratory management*

## General principles:

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- Pulse oximetry
- serial arterial blood gas monitoring
- endotracheal tube suctioning
- physiotherapy
- regular CXRs.

# *Respiratory management*

## Nursing care and physiotherapy:

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- Routine physiotherapy
- suctioning and mouth toilet
- Strict asepsis during tracheal toilet.
- • PEEP of 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O is recommended



# *Respiratory management*

## Nursing care and physiotherapy:

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- Recruitment may be achieved by periodic increases in PEEP up to 15 cmH<sub>2</sub>O or by sustained inflations (peak inspiratory pressure of 30 cmH<sub>2</sub>O for 30 secs.)

# *Respiratory management*

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- Diuresis to normovolaemia
- 30° head-up position, cuff pressure  $\leq$  25cmH<sub>2</sub>O
- PaCO<sub>2</sub>: (36-44mmHg)
- pH 7.35-7.45
- FiO<sub>2</sub>: lowest FiO<sub>2</sub> to maintain PaO<sub>2</sub> (80mmHg).
- PEEP: 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O
- Tidal volume (V<sub>t</sub>): 8-10 ml/kg
- Peak inspiratory pressures:  $\leq$  30cmH<sub>2</sub>O.



# Correct Impaired Gas Exchange and Maximize Oxygenation!

Most organ donors are

- Chest trauma
- Aspiration
- Long Hospitalization
- Atelectasis or pneumonia
- Impending Neurogenic Pulmonary Edema

# Impaired Gas Exchange

## Goals...

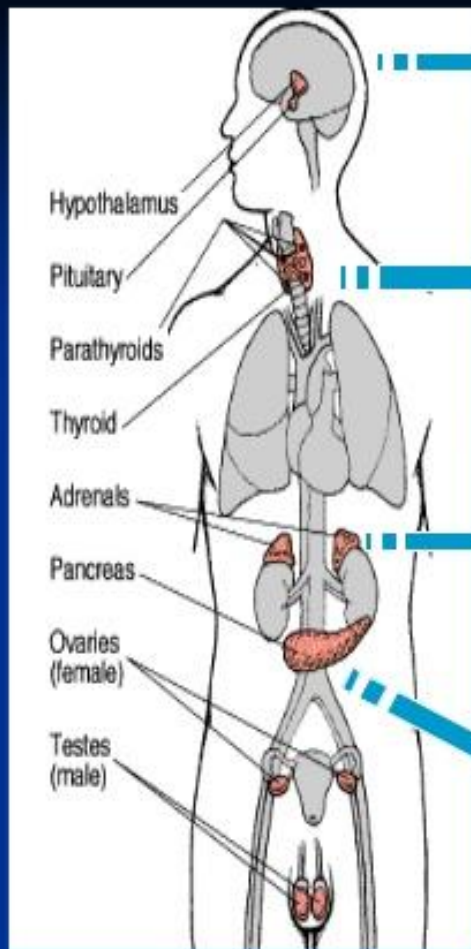
- Goals are to maintain health of lungs for transplant while optimizing oxygen delivery to other transplantable organs
- Avoid over-hydration
- Ventilatory strategies aimed to protect the lung
- Avoid oxygen toxicity by limiting  $FiO_2$  to achieve a  $PaO_2$  100mmHg &  $PIP < 30$ mmHg.



# Impaired Gas Exchange Management

- Maintain  $\text{PaO}_2$  of  $>100$  and a saturation  $>95\%$
- Monitor ABG's q2h PEEP 5 cm, HOB up  $30^\circ$
- Increase ET cuff pressure immediately after BD declaration
- Aggressive pulmonary toilet (Keep suctioning & turning q2h)
- CXR (Radiologist to provide measurements & interpretation)
- CT of chest requested in some cases





## Endocrine changes





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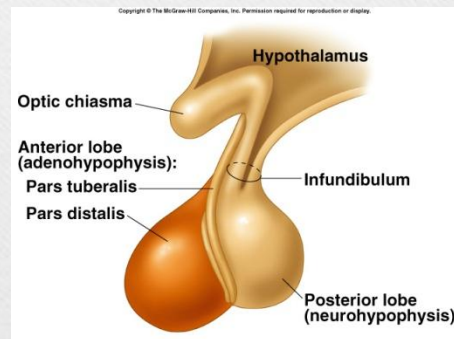
**2-24 h after BD**

**TRH/TSH /GRH/ GH/GnRH/LH/ ❖**

**CRH**

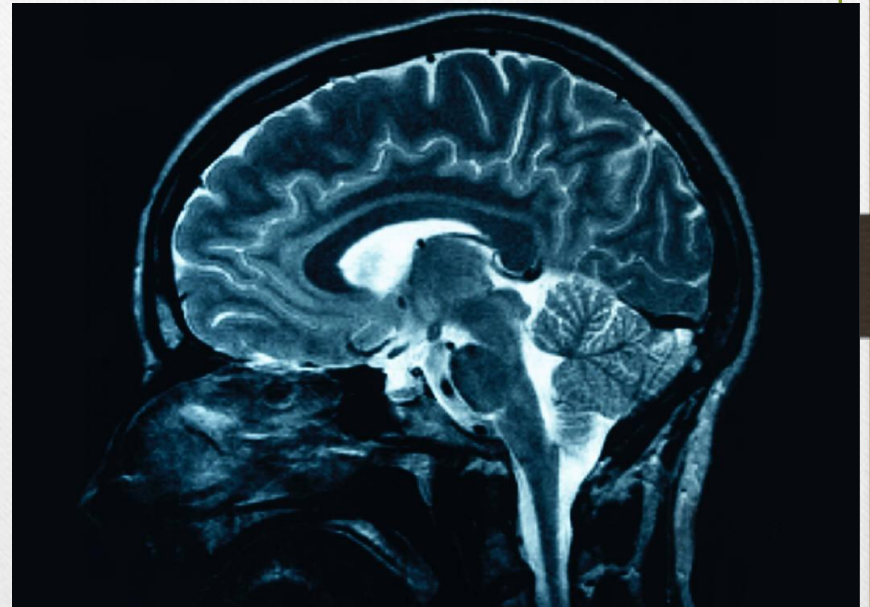
**ADH ❖**

**BS ❖**



# Normal Pituitary Gland

- Controlled by the hypothalamus
- Releases ADH to conserve water
- Stimulates the release of thyroid hormone





# Failure of the Hypothalamus results in:

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- Impaired temperature regulation - hypothermia or hyperthermia
- Leads to vasodilation without the ability to vasoconstrict or shiver (loss of vasomotor tone)
- Leads to problems with the pituitary ...

# Pituitary Failure results in:

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- ADH ceases to be produced = Diabetes Insipidus
- Can lead to hypovolemia and electrolyte imbalances
- Leads to problems with the thyroid gland



# Diabetes Insipidus Management

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- ✓ Treatment is aimed at correcting hypovolemia
- ✓ Desmopressin (DDAVP) 1 mcg IV, may repeat x 1 after 1 hour.
- ✓ Replace hourly U.O. on a volume per volume basis with MIVF to avoid volume depletion
- ✓ Leads to electrolyte depletion/instability monitor closely to avoid hypernatremia and hypokalemia

# Diabetes Insipidus

- Goal is UOP 1-3 ml/kg/hr
- Rule of thumb – 500 ml UOP per hour x 2 hours is DI
- Severe cases – Notify OPC. Assess clinical situation.





# Electrolyte Imbalance Management

## Hypokalemia

If  $K^+ < 3.4$  – Add KCL to MIVF

(anticipate low  $K^+$  with DI &  $T_4$  administration)

## Hypernatremia

If  $Na^+ > 155$  – Change MIVF to include more free  $H_2O$ , Free  $H_2O$  boluses down NG tube

## Calcium, Magnesium, and Phosphorus

Deficiencies here common...often related to polyuria associated with osmotic diuresis, diuretics & DI.

# *Glycaemic control and nutrition*

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- Hyperglycaemia is common in organ donors due to large volumes of glucose - containing solutions,
- peripheral insulin resistance
- inotrope infusions.



# The major consequences

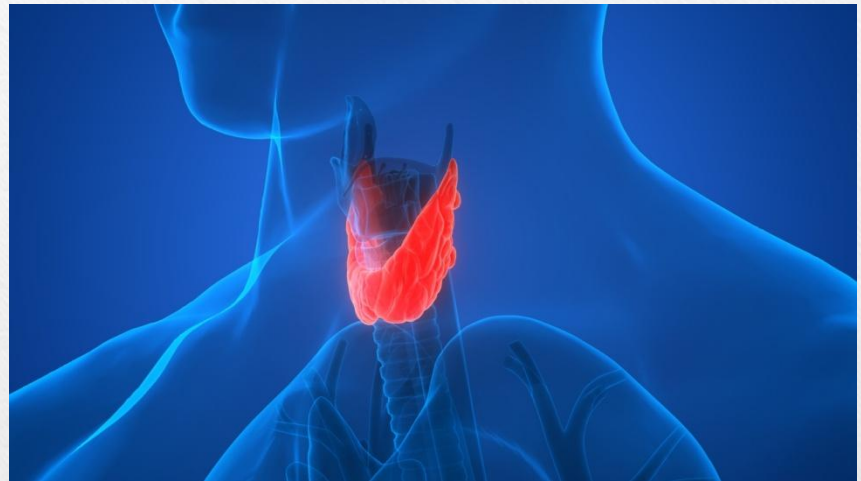
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- osmotic diuresis
- ketosis and potential pancreatic graft dysfunction
- • Aim for a blood glucose level 75-150 with an insulin infusion.
- • Routine enteral nutrition should be initiated or continued as tolerated
- • TPN should not be initiated; however when it has been initiated it should be continued.

# Thyroid Failure

Leads to:

- ✓ Cardiac instability
- ✓ Labile blood pressure
- ✓ Potential coagulation problems





# T4 Protocol

## Background

- Brain death leads to sudden reduction in circulating pituitary hormones
- May be responsible for impairment in myocardial cell metabolism and contractility which leads to myocardial dysfunction
- Severe dysfunction may lead to extreme hypotension and loss of organs for transplant



# T<sub>4</sub> Protocol

## Bolus:

- ✓ 15 mg/kg Methylpred
- ✓ 20 mcg T<sub>4</sub> (Levothyroxine)
- ✓ 20 units of Regular Insulin
- ✓ 1 amp D<sub>50</sub>W

## Infusion:

- ✓ 200 mcg T<sub>4</sub> in 500 cc NS
- ✓ Run at 25 cc/hr (10 mcg/hr)
- ✓ Titrate to keep SBP >100

*Monitor Potassium levels closely!*





# hypothermia



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# *Maintaining normothermia*

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- Hypothermia is common in organ donors due to
- loss of thermoregulatory control
- exposure to cold ambient temperatures
- massive infusions of cold i.v. fluids or blood products.



# The consequences of hypothermia

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- Arrhythmias
- myocardial depression
- Hypotension
- Hypoxia
- Hyperglycaemia
- coagulopathy

# Aim for a core temperature $> 36^{\circ}\text{C}$

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- warming blankets
- Fluid warmers
- heated humidifiers in ventilator circuits



# Hypothermia Management

- Monitor temperature continuously
- NO tympanic, axillary or oral temperatures. Central only.
- Place patient on hypothermia blanket to maintain normal body temperature



# *Transfusion thresholds*

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- **Haemoglobin:** A target haemoglobin level of 9-10g/dl is most appropriate to optimize **cardiopulmonary function** in the face of haemodynamic instability.
- A level of 7 g/dl is the lowest acceptable limit for management of stable donors in the ICU



# Other blood indices

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- There are no defined targets for platelet concentration, INR, PT or APPT.
- Platelet, fresh frozen plasma or cryoprecipitate replacement is indicated for clinical bleeding only.

# *Transfusion*

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- CMV negative blood products should be used.
- **Antifibrinolytics such as epsilon aminocaproic acid may cause microvascular thrombi in donor organs and should be avoided.**



# Anemia

- ✓ Hematocrit  $< 30\%$  must be treated
- ✓ Transfuse 2 units PRBC's immediately
- ✓ Reassess 1° after completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> unit and repeat infusion of 2 units if HCT remains below 30%
- ✓ Assess for source of blood loss and treat accordingly



# *Antimicrobial therapy*

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- The principles of antimicrobial therapy are similar to those in patients who are not organ donors. Antimicrobial therapy should be based on the results of gram staining or culture or may be empirical
- Nephrotoxic antimicrobials should be avoided when possible.
- Prophylactic antimicrobials are not routinely indicated.



# Incidence of pathophysiologic changes following Brain Death:

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- Hypotension	81%
- Diabetes Insipidus	65%
- DIC	28%
- Cardiac arrhythmias	25%
- Pulmonary edema	18%
- Metabolic acidosis	11%

**Physiologic changes During Brain Stem Death – Lessons for Management of the Organ Donor.**

# Specific organ care liver



Na < 150 •

Correcting electrolytes imbalances •

Liver enzymes checking •

CT /sonography •



## Donor Factors Affecting Liver Transplant Outcome

### Not Amenable to Change

Age  
Sex  
ABO Blood Type  
Cause of Death  
Macrosteatosis  
Endotoxins and Cytokines

### Amenable to Change

ICU LOS  
Ischemia Times  
Hypernatremia  
Nutrition and Liver Glycogen  
Hypotension/Vasoactive Drugs  
Preconditioning for I/R

## Nutrition and Liver Glycogen

- **Organ donors typically with nutritional depletion**
- **Hepatic glycogen and ATP energy source**
  - Source of energy during warm/cold ischemia
  - Biopsy proven low glycogen stores associated with worse outcome<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Animal experiments support nutritional supplementation to restore liver glycogen<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>
- **Potential benefit of balanced nutritional support<sup>3</sup>**
  - Moderate amounts of carbohydrates
  - Lipids, long-chain triacylglycerols/fish oil
  - Amino-acids

1. Adam Txp Proceed 1993; 25: 1536-1537
2. Lanir Hepatology 1988; 8: 471-475
3. Singer Nutrition 2001; 17: 948-952
4. Boudjema Transplantation 1990; 50: 943-948
5. Palombo Txp Proceed 1989; 21: 1299-1300
6. Cywes Hepatology 1992; 16: 1271-1279



## Specific organ care kidney



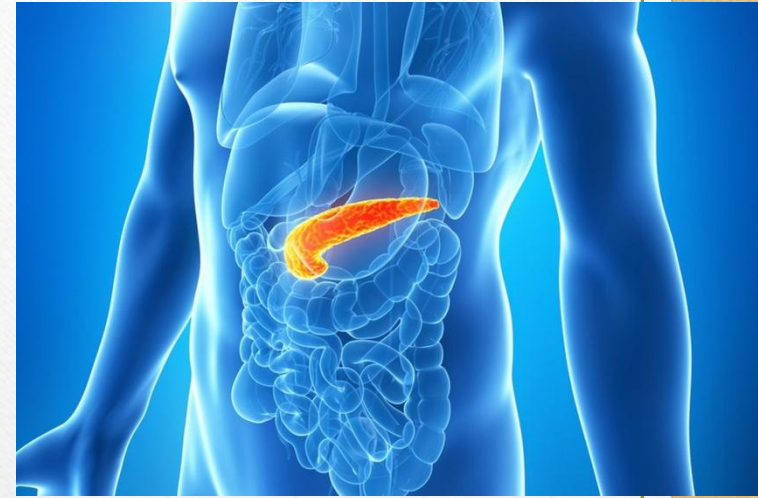
Treat Diabetes incipidus •

UA •

BUN/ Creatinine •

dopamine 1-3 mcg/kg/min •

## Specific organ care pancreas



Serial Amylase, Lipase •

Blood Glucose = or lesser 150 mg/dl •

Lower glucose containing fluids •

Restricted glucose control •



# What to be monitored?

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- ECG
- CVP
- arterial blood pressure
- urine output
- central body temperature,
- capnography and pulse oximetry.
- PCWP
- Acid-base balance, electrolyte, glycaemia and haemoglobin concentrations

# آزمایشات و گرافی های لازم در مرگ مغزی

- **ABG**
- **BUN, creatinine, and electrolyte values**
- **Hb, HCT, WBC and platelet counts**
- **Serum Amylase, total Bilirubin, Alkaline Phosphates, SGOT, and SGPT, HBsAg, HBsAb, HBcAb, HCVAb, HIV**
- **Coagulation profile (including PT, PTT ,INR)**
- **U/A & U/C**
- **EKG & CX-RAY**



# Organ Donation Process



# The Teams...





# Organ Preservation Time

- Heart: 4-6 hours
- Lungs: 4-6 hours
- Liver: 12 hours
- Pancreas: 12-18 hours
- Kidneys: 72 hours
- Small Intestines: 4-6 hours

















# Organ donation





**Thanks for your attention**