

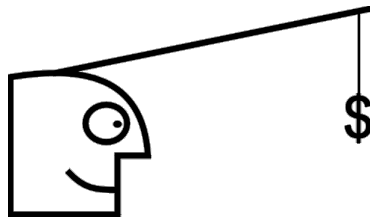
Using incentives to increase availability of human organs.

US275 Scientific Ethics
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Cadaveric organ donation can be increased by providing incentives.

- Assist with funeral costs
- financial payments
- charitable donations or recognition



Is providing incentives for the families of deceased donors coercive?

- Funerals are expensive
- death of a wage earner
- larger incentives are associated with greater risk of coercion.



Living organ donations have medical advantages, but many ethical concerns.

- with a living donor
 - better matches between donor and recipient
 - donation can be pre-arranged
 - recipient better prepared for increases success of transplant



There are not normally “donor advocates” to help a living donor make an unbiased, informed decision.

- Pressure
 - to donate to a sick family member
- Health consequences
 - pain, discomfort, potential future health complications
- Psychological consequences
 - especially if transplant goes poorly



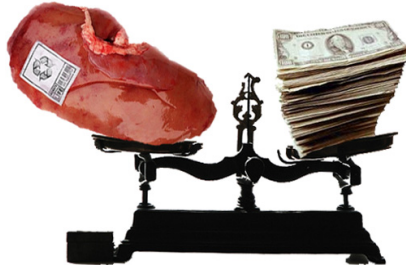
Some states are considering non-financial incentives to promote living organ donation.

- Wisconsin (2004)
 - income tax deduction
 - offset donation expenses such as travel costs and lost wages.



The buying and selling of human organs is prohibited in the United States.

- banned in the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984
- selling of organs contributes to coercive financial incentive for economically disadvantaged.
- establishes system with unequal access to organs
 - wealthy would have greater access than lower income



scienceline.org

Impoverished conditions promote an environment where exploitation is possible.

kidney transplantation in India

- Transplantation of Human Organ Act (1994)
 - banned sale of organs for commercial gain
 - violators can be jailed for up to 5 years
- continues to be black market for buying and selling organs



Much poverty in India
Peter van der Sluijs, 2012

Would legalizing and regulating the selling of organs result in better outcomes?

Study on kidney transplantation in India

- 96% of donors sold kidneys to pay off debt
- average amount received was \$1,070 (\$450 - \$2,660)
 - laborers or street vendors with annual income of \$660
- 86% said health deteriorated after sale
- income declined by a third after sale.



Lamb kidneys
Wikimedia Commons

Goyal et al., (2002) "Economic and health consequences of selling a kidney in India." *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 288:1589-1593.

A World Health Organization study 2006

Medical Tourism

- all-inclusive transplant packages
- \$70,000 - 160,000 for a kidney
- risk of substandard medical treatment
 - risk of infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis B and C

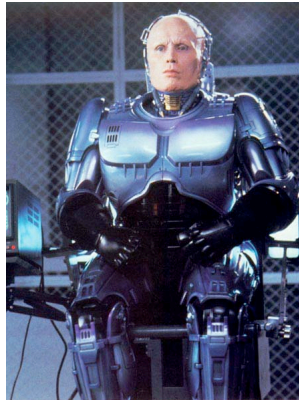


World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/85/12/06-039370/en/>

Should organ transplants even be an option for extending life?

- transplant surgeries
 - are expensive
 - requires continued treatment with immunosuppressant drugs
 - prolong the life of patients that will often need additional costly medical treatments in the future.



Assignment

Assignment

Trafficking of human organs?

In your discussion group:

Discuss with your group the following question: **Currently many people die while waiting for an organ transplant. At the same time individuals in impoverished situations and their families could benefit from the financial incentives involved. If a person truly has the right to choose what happens to/with their body, should patients be able to purchase needed organs?**

Readings

Ethics of Organ Transplantation (2004).
University of Minnesota Center for
Bioethics.

http://www.ahc.umn.edu/img/assets/26104/Organ_Transplantation.pdf

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Any Questions?

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<http://www.pippibullennets.com/images/animated-question-mark.gif>