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Abstract

COUNSELLING THE DONOR FAMILY AFTER DEATH OF THE RECIPIENT IMMEDIATE POST TRANSPLANT

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Communicating the news of a loved one's demise and approaching families for organ donation is a critical aspect of deceased organ donation and transplantation. A team approach with the involvement of the donor coordinator is recommended. Sensitive and skilled communication is a must when breaking bad news, counselling families in different stages of grief, and offering the option of organ donation. Addressing family concerns with regard to organ donation and assisting them in balancing expectations with regard to recipients, post-transplant outcomes, and 'secondary loss' is paramount. Post donation care of families and support services need to be provided, especially in the light of media stories that compromise anonymity of donor families and recipients.