
Grace Peterson Nursing Research Colloquium

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Role of Education in Organ Donation: An Integrative Literature Review

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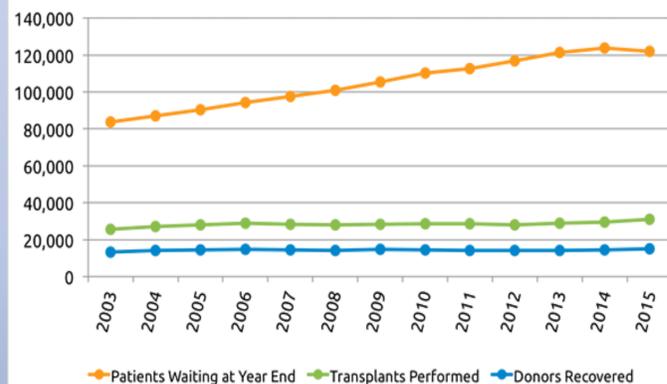
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Background

Currently in the United States alone, there are over 120,000 individuals waiting for a transplant and on average, 22 individuals will die each day waiting. The current need for organs significantly outweighs the number of organs donated and the education process can help balance this.



Objectives

The purpose of this literature review is to measure the level of general knowledge of non-healthcare professionals on the topic of organ donation. The aim of the research is to (1) compare the rates of organ donation in individuals that have prior education and those who had no prior education, (2) identify factors that influence the family's decision-making process for unregistered, eligible donors and (3) to identify the role of healthcare professionals in the organ donation process.

Design

The study design is an integrative review on organ donation to identify current education available for individuals. Additionally, to gather data on what factors affect an individual's decision to donate and what role healthcare professionals have in the donation process.

Data and Data Collection

Sample. Articles published within years 2010-2017, with sample population of: general public or healthcare professionals. Articles limited to: journals, literature reviews, and scholarly articles. Articles were excluded if it was limited to a specific population outside desired focus. For example, an article would be excluded if it focused on teenagers' perspectives on donating tissues.

Strategies This review searched the databases of Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health (CINHL), ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source and PubMed. Searches were performed using combinations of key words: "organ," "donation," "procurement," "education," and "transplant." 13 articles were further reviewed

Data Evaluation

The 13 articles reviewed were determined by comparing and contrasting similar articles to determine which has stronger evidence, by using the method described by Thomas and Magivly to assess qualitative rigor and research validity (2011)

Methods

Conceptual Framework: Application of Theory of Stress and Coping by Lazarus and Folkman



- Two factors play a role in an individual's response to stress: the threatening tendency of the stress to the individual and the assessment of resources to address the stress.
- Primary appraisal: individual determines whether situation is a threat. Ex: "How does my decision to donate my loved one's organs affect me?"
- Secondary appraisal (if perceived threat) assesses emotions associated with threat. Ex: "If I choose to donate my loved one's organs, I can be saving a life," (positive stress) or "I don't want to donate my loved one's organs because they will destroy their body" (negative stress).

Findings

- Current education available focuses on encouraging individuals to declare their intent on donating by becoming a registered donor
- Methods of public education efforts are: social media, DMV, college campuses
- Methods of education for healthcare professionals: webinars, in-person seminars and signs posted in nurses' stations
- Individuals who are younger, female, have higher education levels and socioeconomic status, and hold fewer religious beliefs were more willing to donate.
- Reasons relatives did not consent for donation: contextual factors (time of extreme grief, insufficient information provided or inadequate support from other family members and healthcare professionals)
- Healthcare professionals need more training on discussing organ donation with patients, along with recognizing possible donors.
- Would be beneficial for hospitals to hold in-services with Organ Procurement Organizations.

Nursing Implications

Nurses interact the most with patients. Providing better education for nurses and shaping their opinions in a positive way, can help to increase donation rates.

