

The dilemma of “to-be or not-to-be”: Needs and expectations of the Taiwanese cadaveric organ donor families during the pre-donation transition

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摘要

Abstract

There has been little study of the Chinese cadaveric donor family's decisions to donate organs within the Chinese cultural framework. A convenience sample of 25 cadaveric donor family members (12 men, 13 women) who gave their consent to donation at National Taiwan University Hospital agreed to participate in this study and completed in-depth interviews. Data were analyzed by a three-steps within-method qualitative triangulation method. The factors influencing the donor family's decisions to donate organs, the needs of donor families, and their expectations of health care providers during the pre-donation transition--the critical period of time between signing a donation and consent to organ harvesting--were examined. The background context and a conceptual framework were further developed to discuss and depict this phenomenon. This project aims to broaden the horizon on organ donation and contribute to the understanding of some of the psychodynamic issues in the Chinese family in Taiwan.