chemicals in a process known as Embalming. Thereafter, the body is dissected, examined and preserved for a substantial period, if required. Parts of body or organs can be removed from the body. Bodily fluids and tissues may be analyzed. The donor gives permission for the above at the time of donation.

## What happens to the donation bodies after the educational purpose is completed?

The donor bodies are cremated in one of the crematoriums of Delhi NCR with due respect.

## Can the ashes from the crematorium be returned to the relatives of the donor?

Due to the nature and variability of uses for education and research, cremated remains or their byproducts will not be returned to the relatives. There are no exceptions to this policy. The relatives will not be informed of the date of cremation.

#### Can the offer of "Donation" be revoked by the relatives at the time of death?

Yes; the relatives can refuse to give the donation at the time of death of the donor without citing any reason.

### Can other organs be donated or an organ donation be carried out?

Provision of organ donation is looked into by the Organ retrieval and banking organization (ORBO-01126593444) of AIIMS, New Delhi. A donor is encouraged to also apply for organ donation with ORBO. However, it is to inform all that under the current guidelines, "Organ donation" is only possible for "BRAIN DEAD" individuals, aided by a ventilator. For cases of natural death occurring at home or hospitals, body donation and not organ donation is only possible. However, eye donation can be donated under both types of death.

#### How to donate eye by a body donor?

The body donor can simultaneously donate the eyes during the procedure of body donation at the Department of Anatomy, AIIMS, New Delhi in collaboration with eye bank at AIIMS, New Delhi. The eye donation can also take place at the residence before donation of the whole body at the nearest eye hospital, equipped for collection eye donation. R.P. CENTER EYE BANK (9811456679)

#### What are the charges for body donation?

There are no charges and the whole procedure is free of charge for the relatives of the donor.

For Further Information, Contact:-

### **Department of Anatomy**

Room No. 1010, 1st Floor, P.C. Block All India Institute of Medical Scences Ansari Nagar, New Delhi - 110029

Ph.: 26593216, 26594756, 9818917906 E-mail :- bodydonations@aiims.edu

# A Gift to Medicine

Whole Body Donation

## Whole Body Donation (A BEQUEST TO DONATION)

Anatomy is the study of the human body - its structural components and their functions. It is one of the main courses in the MBBS curriculum and forms the foundation for the study of medicine. Apart from this, surgeons conduct training workshops for imparting knowledge on advanced operating techniques. New laparoscopic and surgical approaches are also demonstrated to junior doctors, which will benefit the ever increasing number of patients. In this regard, body donations are vital for training the doctors of tomorrow.

The need for donations is great and that, the gift will be honored and valued by the medical fraternity. The body donation program at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, is committed to excellence in teaching and research. In our contact with the families of donors, we provide all relevant information and support regarding documentation. With this in mind, the following queries with answers will help clarify doubt in the minds of the donors and their family members.

#### What is the importance of body donation?

Medical students need to study the cells, tissues and organs of the normal human body in order to understand the basis of various diseases and the changes produced in the body. This helps in prescribing appropriate treatment.

#### Who can donate?

An person residing in Delhi NCR can opt for donation except those, suffering from infectious diseases like swine flu, COVID-19, Hepatitis, HIV and other transmissible diseases. People suffering from major

ailments like cancer and cirrhosis are not encouraged to donate.

#### What are the pre-conditions for donation?

Only persons who have died a "Natural death" due to old age, heart attack, stroke or non-infectious diseases can donate. Deaths by suicide or homicide or those occurring suddenly and unexpectedly, particularly in the young, are subject to police investigation and not accepted for donation. Those with injuries like burns are not suitable for donation.

#### What is the procedure for body donation?

The Department of Anatomy has a body donation program running since the late 1980s (Room No. 1010; Phone 011-26593216). Anyone can register for this program by filling up an application form, countersigned by any 2-3 nearest relatives. The person has to submit 2 passport size photographs. A self declaration regarding the previous medical history of the donor also needs to be submitted. Based upon the suitability, a donor card will be issued, which can be kept in the wallet. In case of any eventuality.

### What is the protocol for body donation after death has occurred?

The relatives of the donor must obtain a death declaration from the family doctor or any registered medical practitioner or a nearby hospital. Then they should inform the In-charge of the body donation program (9818917906) at AIIMS, New Delhi. Any delay at this stage may render the donor body unusable. On receiving information, an ambulance is dispatched to the house of the

donor free of charge, to receive the donation. The relatives are advised to come in their own conveyance and complete the official procedure of donation. If the donation is received at night, the donor's body is kept in the cold room and the formalities are completed on the next day.

On receiving the death certificate and a photocopy of the aadhar certificate alongwith the application form, duly filled up by the relatives, a Certificate of donation is issued by the Department. This certificate is valid for all medicolegal and administrative purposes. Information regarding donation is correspondingly sent to the Police station, under whose ambit, the death has occurred.

### Will the donation be used for study purpose exclusively at AIIMS, New Delhi?

In the majority of cases, the donation will be used by the students and doctors at AIIMS, New Delhi. However, under extraordinary circumstances, these donations can be utilized by other newly established medical colleges in the NCR, where the body donation program is yet to start.

### Is the information on donations shared with other organizations?

The information is kept confidential unless the donation is received through a third party like a NGOs or a charitable organization working in this field. Another exception is when the donation is shared with other government medical colleges under loan basis.

### How will be the donated bodies be used for medical studies?

The donor body is preserved by infusion of