

Brain Death and Ethical Considerations

Student name

University

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Course

Date

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What testing do you expect to be performed to diagnose brain death?

According to Iltis, (2015), an apnea test is the most important clinical procedure that is performed to determine a brain dead. However, an initial arterial blood gas sample should be acquired to assess and determine partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PACO₂) baseline levels. An apnea test is then conducted to elevate the partial pressure of carbon dioxide in the blood while closely monitoring the patient for any respiration efforts to reflect brainstem activity.

What is the procedure when a patient is determined to be brain dead?

Iltis, (2015) highlights that the procedure for apnea test is done by disconnecting the patient's mechanical ventilation then conduct a catheter insertion into the endotracheal tube and extended to the level of the carina. The catheter is expected to deliver oxygen and through the apneic oxygenation method, oxygen flow is closely monitored and maintained at 4-10 L/min. and this process is expected to deliver oxygen into the blood through gas displacement hence allowing the diffusion of the alveoli in the blood.

Who should approach the family about organ donation?

Healthcare organizations work in collaboration with OPOs who educate healthcare providers, patients, and family members about donation processes (Iltis, 2015). The OPO staff ensures that organ donors receive optimal care and treatment will allow successful organ and tissue donation. Therefore, it is the OPO staff that should approach the family about organ donation.

Do you think donation should happen anyway? Why or why not?

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No. I think it is unethical to conduct an organ donation because the patient died from a condition that can be inherited through organ donation. The patient had given consent for organ donation; however, Iltis, (2015) emphasizes that neurologic concept will apply as ethical consequences for an infected organ donation.

What will be the ethical consequences of your decision?

Ethical consequences for my decision would be the use of a diseased organ which will bring more harm than good to the patient. Iltis, (2015) explains that the neurologic concept or brain death is another consequence because the neurological problem will transfer to the patient hence harming them more.

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References

Iltis, A. S. (2015). Organ donation, brain death and the family: Valid informed consent. *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 43(2), 369-382.