

'Onus on doctors to identify cadavers, initiate process'

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Dr Martí Manyalich, president of Transplant Procurement Management (TPM) - Donation and Transplantation Institute (DTI) Foundation, Spain, and Dr Chlöe Ballesté, cooperation and development director of TPM-DTI Foundation, suggested ways to improve organ donation programmes in the city. Spain has the maximum cadaver donations worldwide and Manyalich, along with colleagues from DTI, had also visited Mumbai last year to study the programme here.

What are the reasons for such few organ donations?

To have an efficient and successful cadaveric organ donation programme, it is important to have expert intensivists and other healthcare professionals who have been trained in this field. The onus lies on them to identify cadavers and initiate the donation process. The government and other national institutions involved in the process must also support to these professionals.

In 2013, about 149 people in Mumbai died while waiting for a cadaver kidney and liver transplant. What can be done to save such patients when there are no live donors available?

The only way to perform transplants and save lives is to increase organ donation. This can be done by improving the donation programmes at the hospitals.

Are religious beliefs a hurdle for cadaver donations?

Religion is not a hurdle: all religions accept and support organ donation. Although in



■ **Dr Martí Manyalich (left) and Dr Chlöe Ballesté of Transplant Procurement Management - Donation and Transplantation Institute Foundation, Spain.**

some cases cultural beliefs or tradition can influence the decision, this can evolve.

Should we look at the possibility of increasing unrelated donors and in such a situation how can trafficking of organs be avoided?

Unrelated donation can be very dangerous in a society with large social differences; it is also very difficult to ensure transparency and avoid trading activities.

How does the government of Spain support its cadaver programme?

The government ensures that doctors in the intensive care unit (ICU) who are in charge of organ donation are trained well and refunds hospitals for related expenses.

What are the kinds of campaigns organised in Spain and how accepting of donation is the community there?

There are awareness campaigns at the professional level, high-education level and in schools. While our family refusal rate is below 16%, it must be taken into account that every family is counselled by an expert from hospitals.