

Human organ and tissue transplantation

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on human organ and tissue transplantation,¹

RECOMMENDS to the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA40.13, WHA42.5 and WHA44.25 on organ procurement and transplantation;

Noting the global increase in allogeneic transplantation of cells, tissues and organs;

Concerned by the growing insufficiency of available human material for transplantation to meet patient needs;

Aware of ethical and safety risks arising in the transplantation of allogeneic organs, tissues and cells, and the need for special attention to the risks of organ trafficking;

Recognizing that living xenogeneic cells, tissues or organs, and human bodily fluids, cells, tissues or organs that have had *ex vivo* contact with these living xenogeneic materials have the potential to be used in human beings when suitable human material is not available;

Mindful of the risk associated with xenotransplantation of the transmission of known or as yet unrecognized xenogeneic infectious agents from animals to human beings and from xenotransplantation recipients to their contacts and the public at large,

¹ Document EB113/14.

I

Allogeneic transplantation

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to implement effective national oversight of procurement, processing and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, including ensuring accountability for human material for transplantation and its traceability;

(2) to cooperate in the formulation of recommendations and guidelines to harmonize global practices in the procurement, processing and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, including development of minimum criteria for suitability of donors of tissues and cells;

(3) to take measures to protect the poorest and vulnerable groups from “transplant tourism” and the sale of tissues and organs;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue examining and collecting global data on the practices, safety, quality, efficacy and epidemiology of allogeneic transplantation, and on ethical issues, including living donation, in order to update the Guiding Principles on Human Organ Transplantation;¹

(2) to promote international cooperation so as to increase the access of citizens to these therapeutic procedures;

(3) to provide, in response to requests from Member States, technical support for developing suitable transplantation of cells, tissues or organs, in particular by facilitating international cooperation;

II

Xenotransplantation

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to allow xenotransplantation only when effective national regulatory control and surveillance mechanisms overseen by national health authorities are in place;

(2) to cooperate in the formulation of recommendations and guidelines to harmonize global practices, including protective measures to minimize or prevent the potential secondary transmission of any xenogeneic infectious agent that could have infected recipients of xenotransplants or contacts of recipients, and especially across national borders;

¹ Document WHA44/1991/REC/1, Annex 6.

(3) to support international collaboration for the prevention and surveillance of infections resulting from xenotransplantation;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to provide leadership through the promotion and facilitation of communication and international collaboration among health authorities in Member States on issues relating to xenotransplantation;

(2) to collect data globally for the evaluation of practices in xenotransplantation;

(3) to provide, in response to requests from Member States, technical support in strengthening capacity and expertise in the field of xenotransplantation, including policy-making and oversight by national regulatory authorities.

Seventh meeting, 22 January 2004
EB113/SR/7

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