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## Epidemiological profile of organ donors for transplantation in hospitals of Brazil

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### Background

Despite advances in treatment of viral hepatitis, liver transplantation is still the only alternative for many patients with liver cirrhosis in terminal stage.

In recent decades, substantial increase in the number of transplants performed worldwide was observed.

However, insufficient number of organ donations in relation to the increasing of organ demand remains the main obstacle to transplantation.

The aim of this study was to investigate the main characteristics of organ donors in five hospitals in State of Espírito Santo (ES), Brazil, which can contribute for the development of public policies to increase organ donation.

### Methods

- Descriptive cross-sectional survey.
- Approved by Research Ethics Committee of Hospital Infantil Nossa Senhora da Glória, Vitória, ES, Brazil (number: 02/2010).
- Data were collected during 6 months in five hospitals and on the Death Report from Department of Health of State of ES, Brazil.

### Results

- Total number of donors: 40:
  - Multi organic donors: 11
  - Only tissue donors: 29
- The average age among the organ donors was 36 years ( $\pm$  19.95), with age range between 10 and 64 years.
- The main cause of death was external causes of mortality (72.7%). Cranioencephalic trauma by accident was the first cause in this group (54.5%)

**Table 1. Organ donors characterization**

<b>Mean age (years)</b>	<b>36 +/- 19.95</b>
<b>Gender (%)</b>	
Female	27.3
Male	72.7
<b>Race/ color (%)</b>	
White	27.3
Black / brown	63.6
Without information	9.1
<b>Hospital (%)</b>	
Public	81.8
Private	0
Philanthropic	18.2
<b>Place of death (%)</b>	
Surgery center	18.2
Intensive care unit	54.5
Emergency room	9.1
Nursery	18.2

### Conclusion

The study provided information about the organ donors profile which can contribute to design strategies for increasing donations.

The high number of organ donors in ICU suggests the importance of the improvement of organ procurement in these sectors.

External causes of mortality were the main causes of death, highlighting the need to focus on reducing these indices, which constitute a major challenge for public health policies in Brazil.

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