

## **Students' attitudes towards the issue of transplantation. Characteristics of a person against organ transplantation.**

### **Abstract**

**Introduction.** Organ transplantation is one of the achievements of modern medicine. It allows to treat patients with end-stage organ failure, giving them a chance to live longer. A serious problem, which makes it impossible, does not result from a lack of qualified medical staff or specialist equipment. The biggest problem that transplantology has to face in Poland, as well as in the world, is the insufficient number of acquired organs in the face of growing needs.

**Aim.** The main aim of this work is to analyze students' attitude towards transplantation medicine and to present characteristics of a person who is against organ removal and transplantation.

**Research material and methods.** The author's own survey questionnaire was used (Boratyński W, Mularczyk P, Danielewicz R.). On the basis of the main research problems the author's own transplant support index was created. Statistical analysis was performed in program R in version 3.5.1. The results of data collected in the research process were presented with the help of basic descriptive statistics, according to the measurement scale of individual variables. The study covered 3007 students of medical universities in Poland, including 883 students of medical faculties and 2122 students of other non-medical faculties. The survey was conducted in 2017-2019.

**Results.** Medical students showed significantly higher level of support for transplantation than non-medical students. A statistically significant difference in the average level of the transplantation rate between both groups of students was confirmed, however, with weak strength,  $r_g = 0.20$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . In the examined group almost half of the respondents were able to correctly

determine the legal requirements for consent for organ removal (49%), while in the group of medical students it was 66%, and in the group of non-drug students - 41%. The students of the medical group differ statistically significantly from students of non-drug faculties in terms of knowledge of legal regulations concerning transplantation, with a strong effect of the indicated difference ( $V = 0.23$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). The predisposing features of the antitransplantation posture were: younger age, lower year of studies, public health faculty, no meeting of a person after or waiting for a transplantation, lack of knowledge of current legal regulations, mother's education at the primary level.

**Conclusions.** Despite the high level of acceptance of transplantation as a society, we are not prepared to be an organ donor. A significant number of factors predisposing to an anti-transplantation attitude can be eliminated in the academic education process. It is necessary to introduce a multidisciplinary educational strategy within academic education, taking into account ethical, legal and social aspects of organ procurement and transplantation, in order to eliminate barriers to organ donation.

**Key words:** organ transplantation, organ donor, organ shortage, medical university students