CONNECTING D.O.T.S.
DONATION & ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION FOR SCHOOLS
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introduction

Connecting D.O.T.S. “Donation & Organ Transplantation For Schools” is an online program developed by The Transplantation Society that aims to facilitate a discussion between parents, students and teachers about donation and transplantation.

The program has three sections:

1. Helping teachers teach about donation and transplantation
2. Helping parents further learning at home

Registering to be an organ donor is an important social topic. Different countries, provinces or states have different rules regarding organ donation and registration. It is important to educate young people on the topic of organ donation. So that when they are eligible to register, they are well informed.

In order to make a well-informed decision, it is important that teenagers have sufficient information and discuss the matter with others. In this way will they discover what they truly think about organ donation. Connecting D.O.T.S. is focused on helping teenagers increase their knowledge and facilitate opinion formation.

DonorFacts, the student section of the site, is a digital lesson platform about organ and tissue donation aimed at youths in middle and high school. The platform is suitable for all grades, with different difficulty settings. DonorFacts is flexible. Concise or extensive, the basics or the full package, the choice is up to you! In this hand guide you will find tips for using DonorFacts, summaries of the different modules and extra background information.
What is DonorFacts

DonorFacts is a digital education platform aimed at youths in middle and high school. At www.donorfacts.tts.org, the biological, social and personal aspects of organ and tissue donation are presented.

DonorFacts consists of three modules. Each module contains core components with an additional deepening layer

1. Which Organs Can Be Donated?
2. Organ Donation – How Does It Work?
3. Can I Already Make a Choice?

The core components are suitable for all grades, while the deepening layers gradually increase in difficulty. Each module includes videos and different types of assignments.

Easy to use!
minimal preparation necessary

Compatible with
digital whiteboards, tablets, and smartphones

Student interaction via
movies, quizzes and classroom discussion

DonorFacts in a Nutshell

Cover the Basics in an hour!
Do you have more time?
Then dive into the full website!
www.donorfacts.tts.org
Trailer
The DonorFacts section of the website and the three modules each start with an introduction movie. The “1 Donor Can Save Up To 8 Lives” trailer on the DonorFacts homepage serves as a warm up.

Devices
The website is compatible for use on various devices with an internet connection, including digital whiteboards, tablets, and smartphones.

With the lessons on www.donorfacts.tts.org you can employ an array of practical teaching methods. Sometimes there is a worksheet with an assignment, we recommend you print these in advance.

The DonorFacts Curriculum
Increasing knowledge and stimulating students to form their own opinions is the core of the DonorFacts curriculum.

Discovering the importance of their choice regarding organ and tissue donation is important, and the curriculum is centered around discussing topics and various dilemmas around organ donation.

Homework Assignment
You can use the homework assignment at any time. The purpose of this assignment is to address the subject of organ and tissue donation at home, by making it an approachable family topic.

Image Bank
The image bank consists of images which you can use yourself during the lesson and students can incorporate into their assignments.

Quiz
Test your students with the overall knowledge quiz. What do they know about organ donation? This quiz is a combination of the quizzes from modules 1 and 2, consisting of 16 true/false questions, with explanations.
Which organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation

What is the function of these organs?

Where are these organs located within the body?

In addition to these basic and important questions, students will gain knowledge about what it means to live with illness and receive a donor organ.

Goals

- Increase knowledge about organs and tissues
- Empathize the situation of an organ recipient

Learning Objectives

- Which organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation and where these organs and tissues are located in the body.
- What are the functions of organs and tissues that can be donated and transplanted.
- What it means for someone when an organ or tissue no longer functions.
- What it is like to receive an organ from a donor.
- How many people are on the waiting list to receive an organ or tissue in the student’s region.

Background Information

ILLNESS CAN HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON ONE’S QUALITY OF LIFE

A donor organ can be the difference between life and death.
In this module, students will discover the importance of sharing one’s own choice on donation with family and relatives.

Goals
- Increase knowledge about the donation process
- Empathize with the difficult situation of the donor’s family

Learning Objectives
- How the donation process works.
- How the transplantation process works.
- What organ donation means for family and relatives.
- What the importance is of knowing the donation wishes of family members.

Background Information
It rarely occurs that someone passes away under the right circumstances that make organ donation possible.

In these cases, the family is always asked if they consent to organs and tissues being donated for transplantation. However, the deceased may never have discussed with their family what their wishes are regarding organ and tissue donation. Can your students imagine how hard it must be for the family to make such a personal decision at such a difficult time.

Discuss with your students why it is important that everyone’s choice regarding organ and tissue donation is known and/or registered. Only then can you ensure that what happens in such a scenario conforms to the wishes of the donor, while keeping the donor’s family from being confronted with a difficult decision during an already difficult time.
Can I already make a choice?

Module 3

- Why is it important to register one’s choice?
- Which factors are important in making one’s choice?

In this module, students are introduced to donor registration and learn the importance of registering one’s choice. Then they can conduct their own informed assessment about donation.

Goal
- Increasing knowledge and opinion forming.

Learning Objectives
- Who can register and how to register to be a donor.
- What is the importance of registering one’s choice.
- Which factors are important when making one’s choice.
- How can one make a personal assessment about the choice to donate.

Background Information

How do you talk about your choice? And which arguments do you have to support it? Discuss the different possibilities and outcomes of the important decision of organ donation. And, remind students that the choice is not final: one always has the right to change one’s choice.
What will you choose?

Making an informed choice when it comes to a decision such as becoming and registering one’s self as an organ and tissue donor is challenging on a very personal level. It is for this reason that exploring and gaining knowledge through all three modules is extremely important. With that in mind, DonorFacts endeavors to reduce the complexity down to four distinct choices, and offers points for thought and debate accordingly.

choice 1

Yes, I consent to organ and tissue donation

One’s organs/tissues can be used after death for transplantation; the donor is able to specify which organs or tissues can be donated

Points for thought
- Charity: “I want to do something good for another person”
- Reciprocity: “If I needed an organ or tissue transplant, I would appreciate that others have registered themselves as donors.”
- Principle: “It’s the right thing to do”
- After death, one’s organs and tissues are no longer being used.

choice 2

No, I do not consent to organ and tissue donation

One’s organs/tissues will not be used after death for transplantation.

Points for thought
- Spiritually and religious belief structure
- Feeling incomplete without organs/tissues.
- Fear that doctors will let the potential donor die more quickly.
- Family and relatives being confronted with a donation procedure.
**choice 3**

*After my death, my family and relatives will decide*

If one passes away under the right circumstances, one’s family or partner will decide if organs/tissues will be used for transplantation.

**Points for thought**

- For the deceased, it no longer matters what happens to their organs; a person’s family should therefore make the decision.
- Inability to decide, even after discussion, which lets the decision fall to the family
- Deciding to not decide
- Uncertainty: “I don’t like the fact that I don’t know where my organs and tissues will end up after my death.”
- **Counterpoint:** the donor’s family/relatives will be confronted with the difficult decision

**choice 4**

*After my death, a specific person will decide.*

If one passes away under the right circumstances, a predesignated person will decide if organs/tissues will be used for transplantation.

**Points for thought**

- The same arguments apply here as for choice 3. The difference is that the potential donor can make an explicit choice on who decides on organ transplantation. For example, if there is not a good relationship with family or relatives, or if there are no living relatives to make the decision, a close friend could be designated.
- The counter argument, however, is that the relationship with this person can change. If this change is not reflected in the register, this person can still decide what happens with organs/tissues upon death
Do you have limited time, but still want to discuss the topic of organ and tissue donation with your class?

With the concise lesson outline below, you can build a dynamic and interactive lesson that only takes an hour!

I. Introduction:
   A. Watch the trailer on the home page of DonorFacts, or;
   B. Test student knowledge beforehand with the quiz: *What Do They Already Know About Organ Donation?*

II. Module 1:
   A. Watch the intro movie, and;
   B. Cover the *Discover the Body* section.

III. Module 2:
   A. Watch the intro movie, and;
   B. Cover the *What First?* section.

IV. Module 3:
   A. Watch and discuss the intro movie;
   B. Watch the video *Four Choices*; and

V. Summary:
   Retake the quiz to see the change in results
What is organ donation?
Donation means giving or gifting. Someone who is an organ or tissue donor donates their organs and tissues when they pass away. This is referred to as organ donation.

What is organ transplantation?
Transplantation literally means the transfer of tissues or organs. During a transplant procedure the organs or tissues from a donor are transplanted into a recipient(s).

Which organs and tissues can be donated?
Organs that can be transplanted: heart, kidneys, lungs, liver, pancreas and small intestine. Tissues that can be transplanted: skin, bone/bone marrow, cornea, heart valves and aorta.

Can everyone become an organ donor?
Everyone can register the choice to become an organ donor. Whether someone actually becomes an organ donor is dependant on many factors. For example, the moment, the cause and the place of death. For some organs to be suitable for transplantation the donor must pass away in hospital.

How can I register?
Different governments have different rules regarding who and how people can register. Go online and find out what are the requirements for becoming an organ donor in your region.

Am I able to register that I don’t want to be a donor?
Even if you do not want to be a donor, it is important to register your choice in the donor register. This way doctors and your family know what your wishes are regarding organ and tissue donation. And it prevents them being confronted with a difficult decision at an especially difficult time.

What happens if you pass away without registering a choice?
If you have not registered a choice in the national donor register, doctors will ask your family for consent regarding organ donation.
Does an organ or tissue always go to the person that has been on the waiting list the longest?
No, although waiting time is a factor in the decision making process, doctors also look at recipient medical information. Not every organ or tissue is suitable for transplantation into every person. Blood type, tissue type and organ size must also be a match to that of the recipient. Sometimes distance between the donor and recipient also play a role in the assignment of organs. This is because once outside of the body organs and tissues have a limited shelf life.

Can I choose who receives my organs/tissues?
No. A donor cannot decide who receives their organs or tissues. The assignment of their organs and tissues is determined by a multitude of factors, including waiting time and medical information.

What is living organ/tissue donation?
It is possible to donate an organ or tissue while you are still alive. Someone who donates while alive can only donate the following: a kidney, (part of) liver, stem cells and blood. Children can also partake in living donation from the age of twelve. However, there are strict rules governing this.

What is a consent system?
With a consent system a person must register their choice to become an organ donor during their lifetime. The Netherlands, Germany and England use the consent system.

What is a no-objection system?
With a no-objection system everyone is automatically registered as a donor, unless they have specifically registered another choice. Spain, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Sweden use the no-objection system.
Gain knowledge about the views held by the seven main world religions regarding organ and tissue donation.

Learning Objectives
The students:
• Learn about the role that religion/beliefs can play when making the choice to become an organ and tissue donor.
• Learn about religions/beliefs and their views on organ and tissue donation.
• Can form an opinion about organ and tissue donation based on their own religion/beliefs.

Background Information
When making the choice whether or not to become an organ and tissue donor, your religion/beliefs can play an important role. What beliefs are there within different religions? What are the arguments for organ and tissue donation? What are the arguments for not choosing to donate? The students learn the answers to these questions in this module. They work independently on the mini assignments provided. They may use the Donorfacts website to view the beliefs of each religion, or these can be printed in advance.
Answers Mini Assignments
1.
• Hinduism
• Catholicism and Islam
• Humanism
• Islam and Judaism
• Buddhism and Hinduism
• Protestantism

2. The protestants believe that after death the body and soul will be reunited, meanwhile the buddhists believe the opposite, the body and soul will separate.

3. No, every religion outlines pro's and con's, however no religion specifically prohibits organ or tissue donation

4.
a. Right to self-determination
b. You have the right to decide what you find important, thus you can also decide whether or not you wish to be an organ donor.

5.
a. It means that if one does good deeds, they shall reap reward in this life or their next.
b. If you donate, you are doing a good deed, thus you will reap the benefits later. Becoming an organ donor in this case is not only beneficial for yourself but also someone else. Through means of this argument one may be persuaded to become an organ or tissue donor.

6.
a. Student's own answer.
b. Student's own answer.

7.
a. Student's own answer.
b. Student's own answer.

8. Students own answer