

Brain death



구 대 림

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Death is the cessation of life defined by physicians as a total stoppage of the blood. Brain death is the condition of irreversible unconsciousness with complete loss of brain function, although the heartbeat may continue. The cessation of detectable electric activity in the cerebral cortex is important characteristic in the concept of brain death. Brain death is not a coma or persistent vegetative state. There is a need to diagnose brain death with extreme accuracy and urgency because of an increased awareness for an early diagnosis of brain death and the requirements of organ transplantation. At least one of neurologist or neurosurgeon have to be involved in the confirmation of determining brain death in Korea. The purpose of this review is to provide the concept of brain death, the clinical evaluation of brain death, and how to fulfill the requirements of organ retrieval for transplantation.

Key Words: Death, Brain death, Organ transplantation