



THE GIFT OF LIFE

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What Is Organ Donation?

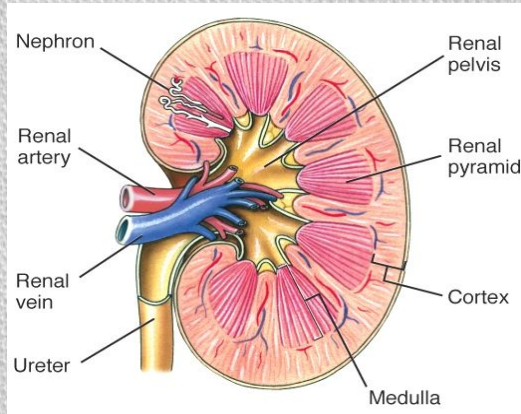
- Organ donation is the process of a person donating their organs for transplant. These are given to someone with damaged organs that need to be replaced.
- An organ transplant may save a person's life, or significantly improve their health and quality of life

Facts:

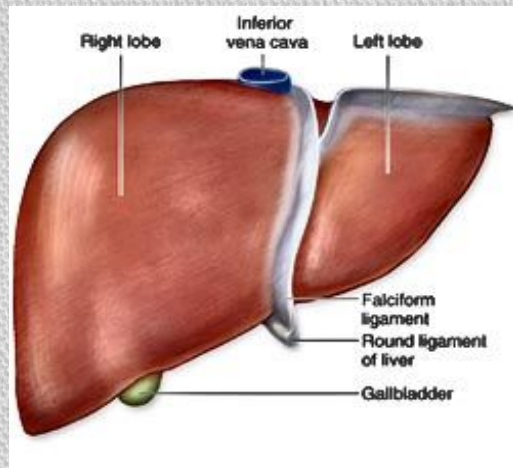
- 18 people die every day while waiting for a transplant.
- 1 organ donor can save 8 lives and change the lives of more than 50 people.
- Almost anyone can be an organ donor, regardless of age or medical history.
- All major religions in the U.S. support organ donation.
- Donors can still have open casket funerals, and organ donation doesn't cost the donor's family any money.
- If a person is hospitalized, the medical staff provides the best possible care, regardless of organ donor status. Donation is only considered after a patient has died.
- Donors are needed for all races and ethnic groups. Transplant success rates increase when organs are matched between members of the same ethnic background.

Donated Organs:

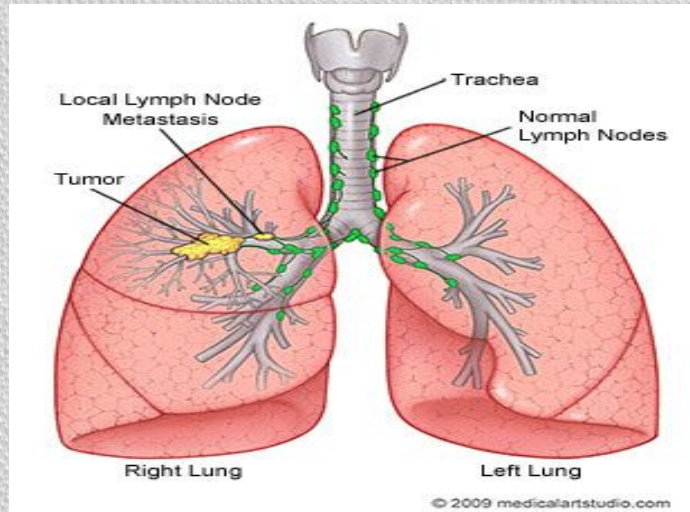
- **Kidney**



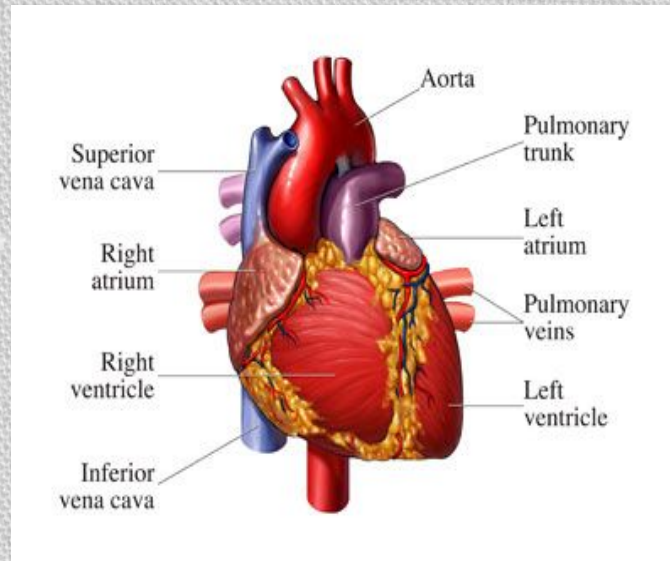
- **Liver**



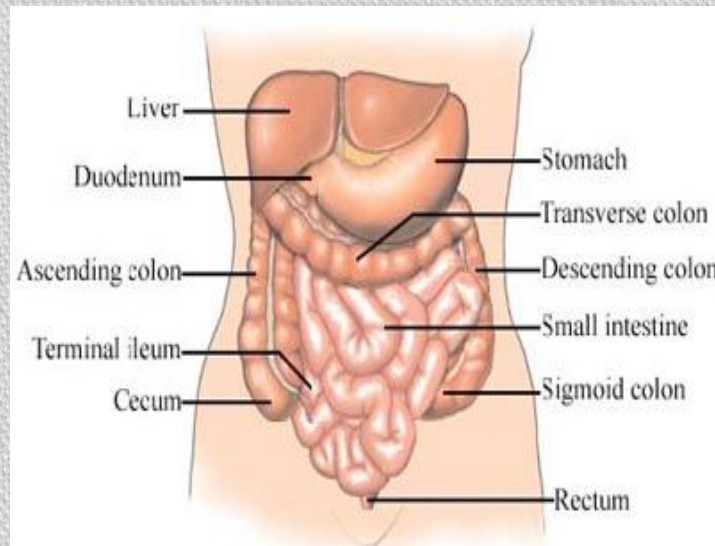
- Lungs



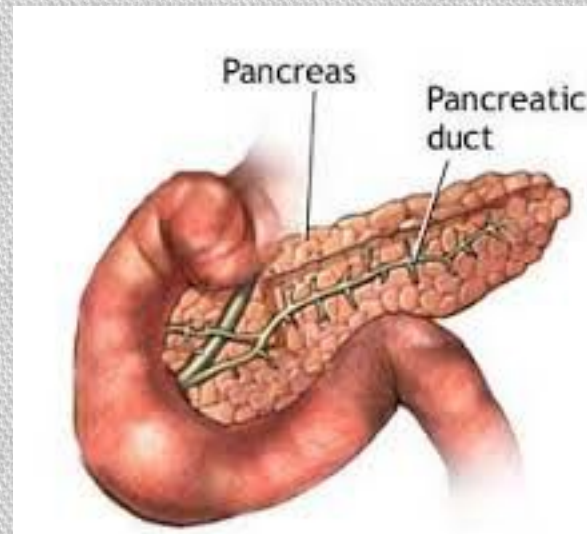
- Heart



- **Intestines**



- **Pancreas**



Transplantable Tissues:

- Blood Vessels
- Bones
- Bone Marrow
- Cartilage
- Connective Tissues
- The Cornea
- Heart Valves
- Skin
- Tendons



There are three types of Organ Donation

1. Donation after Brain Stem Death

- Most Organ Donations are from brain stem dead donors.
- This mean the donor has been confirmed brain stem dead following a severe brain injury
- The circulation is supported by artificial ventilation until the donated organs have been removed.

2. Donation after cardiac death

- Organs and tissue can also be donated after cardiac death.
- In these cases, the organs must be removed within a few minutes of the heart stopping to prevent them being damaged by a lack of oxygenated blood.

3. Live Organ Donation

- A live organ donation usually involves one family member donating an organ to another family member.
- The relative is usually blood-related, most commonly a parent, although it could be a partner.
- Kidney donations are often made from living donors, as a healthy person can lead a normal life with only one working kidney.