

Exploring Health Science Students' Notions on Organ Donation and Transplantation: A Multicenter Study

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ABSTRACT

The knowledge acquired during university education about organ donation and transplantation (ODT) decisively influences the information future health professionals transmit. This is important in ODT where the participation of the general public is essential to obtain organs.

Objective. To determine notions of Spanish medicine and nursing students on ODT and its relationship with attitude toward ODT.

Methods and Design. and design. We conducted a sociologic, multicenter, and observational study. The population for our study consisted of medical and nursing students in Spanish universities. Our database was the Collaborative International Donor Project, stratified by geographic area and academic course. A validated questionnaire (PCID-DTORIOS) was self-administered and completed anonymously. Our sample consisted of 9598 medical and 10,566 nursing students (99% confidence interval; precision of $\pm 1\%$), stratified by geographic area and year of study.

Results. The completion rate for our study was 90%. Only 20% (n=3640) of students thought their notions on ODT were *good*; 41% (n=7531) thought their notions were *normal*; 36% (n=6550) thought their notions were *scarce*. Comparing groups, there were differences between those who believed that their notions on ODT were *good* (44% nursing vs 56% medical students; $P < .000$), and those who believed it *scarce* (54% nursing vs 46% medical students; $P < .000$). Notions on ODT were related with attitude toward the donation of one's own organs: those who considered their notions were *good* were more in favor than those who considered it *scarce* (88% vs 72%; $P < .000$).

Conclusion. Only 20% of Spanish medical and nursing students thought their notions on ODT were good. Having good knowledge is related to a favorable attitude towards ODT. Receiving specific information on the subject could improve their knowledge about ODT during their training.
