

Social Security and Social Transplantation

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To begin this editorial we would like to mention some concepts related to the purpose of this viewpoint.

In 1948 Rudolph Virchow, the eminent author of cell pathology, launched the revolutionary concept of Social Medicine: "Medicine is a social science whose politics is nothing more than medicine on grand scale." Referring to physicians he wrote, "Physicians are the natural advocates of the poor and the social problems fall for the most part under their jurisdiction".

Regarding these thoughts, I will like to add the following words: "If the disease is a social evil, medicine must be a social good".

To day these notions about medicine and social security should be evaluated in relation to the innovative practice of organ transplantation, medical achievement actively developed since 1960.

Transplantation of organs and tissues has succeeds to associate life and death for the benefits of society.

This current facility offer to the people by health care organization, has generates the need for novels methods and State actions, concerning this extraordinary progress of medical sciences.

The vital requirement to transform death into life, which is what organ transplants symbolize, fundamentally needs the end of somebody life, as the primary resource to realize this scientific miracle of our times.

Certainly, this advance in medical practice should generate new health programs different from those recognized until now.

As well, the interpretation and knowledge of the vital magnitude of the metaphor, "transforming

death into life", should be acknowledged by the State and well-known by the people.

In addition, should be well pointed out that besides saving lives, organ transplantation generates economic resources to the social security of a nation, (significant differences between the costs of chronic daily haemodialysis and kidney transplantation)

For that reason, a basic State objective at the present time, should be to make people understand that our body after death is the most suitable source for solving the inexorable evolution of kidney; heart, liver, lung, and intestine "end organ failure», responsible for the end of life and/or growing health budgets.

This possibility is dependable of legally generated organ donation, by the people, during their lives or that at the time of death of their loved ones.

Unfortunately, this people's option remained for decades in a partial response. The shocking result was the critical persistent "organ shortage" and the yearly "unfair death" of thousands of people. (1)

We considered "unfair death", because society refuses to accept to offer to herself, the possibility of turning death into life.

The question that consequently requires a rational answer should be: What is the reason of this crime of "lesa majesty" that humanity is committing against itself?

There are a number of causes responsible of this people negative behaviour to organ donation. Principally, we can mention: ignorance and disinformation. (2-6)

Global statistics show that in general, at the present time, approximately, 50% of the world's

population shows a persistent negative behaviour towards organ donation.

As a critical consideration of this problem, during last years we have sustained that the current message to society has not been able to develop a positive change in this essential human behaviour. (7)

With this intention, we have proposed to modify the classic slogan "Donate is a gift of life" for "Donate is to share life among all". In addition we have added to this suggestion the following ideas:

"During life we are all potential recipients of a transplant. Donors we will be fundamentally after death»

"All monotheistic religions accept organ donation, both in life and after death"

"Well-directed education and understanding, could justify that people accept the tacit conception of an acquired right for give or receive donation of organs and tissues during their lives"

Conclusively, we suggest as a challenge for a social change, the catchphrase: "Our body after death is a unique and irreplaceable source of health".

It should be remarked that in our experience, as well as in some recent surveys, fear of death and mutilation were pointed out as the most significant and frequent barrier to donation. (8-11). It is significant to mention that at global levels current programs of education on organ donation have not deepened this problem and their potential solutions.

Accordingly with this remark, we suggest that to solve this primitive barrier to organ donation, should be necessary a very conscientious program, developed by experts in education, theology and social psychology.

Long periods of constant application of these programs to society, should be programmed through all available means of communication of State's and international non-governmental organizations linked to health and education.

As well and primarily important looking forward to achieve, at long term, a change in society's feelings towards organ donation, the new educational programs must be mainly addressed to the young people, from primary school to all university students, principally at the medical sciences levels. (12, 13)

We believe that it is essential to change ancestral concepts, virtually unmoved, in the collective subconscious of humanity, from the ancient Egypt until now.

Today's people's well-being and security, should also allow the possibility that everybody receive the necessary organ transplant at the time it was needed.

States and/or private Social Security agencies should be actively involved in the solution of this social problem. Their participation in the development of correctly elaborated educational programs will be extremely important in the efforts to be done, searching a change in the social conduct towards organ donation, essential for the safety and welfare for the society of the XXI century.

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