



Investigation Respondent: Staff with Donation Office of Qinghai Province Red Cross Society

Investigation Date: November 11, 2020 (+86 971-4926187)

Summary

Question: How many organs are there that can be used on patients through the Red Cross Society?

Answer: We are doing volunteer registration. We don't have statistics on those that can be used for liver transplant. We can't do that.

Question: Of those that you witnessed, how many could be for our use, roughly?

Answer: Qinghai started promoting this work in 2019. As of now there have been four completed donations, and three of those are liver donations.

Question: There are so few donations?

Answer: The gap between supply and demand is really huge. We have no control over organ allocation.

Hospitals have a OPO agency. And they have designated doctors managing this organ allocation system. We only serve as a monitor and witness in the process.

Question: If someone dies at home, unexpectedly, generally those that can be donated are all unexpected...

Answer: We can't do this type. This type, the type that happens at home, that is, an accident or death, we...since before organ procurement, there is a strict evaluation process.

Question: There's now a special channel for organs at Qinghai Airport. Is it because the donated organs are all given to others, or is it...

Answer: There is indeed. Because when there's a donation, definitely...when there is a donation case, definitely the work will be carried out jointly with relevant agencies. Since last year when the promotion work started, there have been only four cases, and three of which were liver donations. Because they all went through this allocation system, they didn't necessarily match the patients, so the first two cases were allocated to other provinces. They were allocated through the allocation system, not by our coordinators and doctors. We don't have such authorities.

Investigation Recording

Investigator: Hello! Hi! Is this...

Red Cross: Hello!

Investigator: Eh, it's the number for the organ donation office of Qinghai Province Red Cross Society, right?

Red Cross: Ah, yes.

Investigator: Eh, how are you? May I ask you something?

Red Cross: Eh.



Investigator: Since we...at Qinghai Province People's Hospital...

Red Cross: Eh...

Investigator: We wanted to get a liver transplant for a family member.

Red Cross: Eh...

Investigator: The doctor said that there are not many liver donors.

Red Cross: Eh, right.

Investigator: I'd like to ask, how many organs are there here that can be used for patients like us? How many are there a year? Is it very few?

Red Cross: This...we...let me explain it to you. We, the Red Cross Society, are mainly responsible for volunteer registration. That is to say, we only do volunteer registration. But for the time being, we don't have any statistics for liver donations. We can't do that.

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross: Another thing is, if you have a patient who needs a liver transplant, you still need to contact a hospital, asking them to save the patient's information into their system for patients waiting for transplants. I don't know if you have done that already.

Investigator: Yes, we've done it. But even though we've done it...

Red Cross: So you've done it.

Investigator: But they said there were few transplants, because there were no donors.

Red Cross: About this, we...we...this part of work you mentioned is not our responsibility.

Investigator: All organs that can be used clinically need to go through the Red Cross Society, and need your witnessing, don't they?

Red Cross: We mainly do promotion and mobilization, and then, if there are donations happening, we will coordinate the organ obtainment and witness this work.

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross: So, what you just asked about, that is, how many donated organs, we have no way of figuring it out.

Investigator: You do the witnessing, that is, are there a lot or just a few of those that went through your witnessing? Roughly how many were there? Because liver...that is, I...I...

Red Cross: Let me tell you...in your case, anyway, since Qinghai started promoting this work in 2019, as of now there have been four completed donations, and only three of those are liver donations.

Investigator: Oh, oh, so few?

Red Cross: Eh, the gap between supply and demand is really huge. We have no control over organ allocation.

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross: There's a professional...that is, the medical institutions...for organs, they have a OPO agency.

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross: They have designated doctors managing this organ allocation system. We only serve as a monitor and witness in the process. As for which patient receives an organ, we have no control over it.



Investigator: Oh, then I understand. Let's say, for instance, the kind that the emergency room of Qinghai Province People's Hospital has, that is, a patient fails to make it in the rescue, and his family agrees to donate, that kind, do you also go witness? Is that also your business, belonging to your...

Red Cross: We will go to witness it.

Investigator: You also go, right?

Red Cross: Right, this is coordinated by us, witnessed by us. But there are now very very few such cases..

Investigator: Oh, I mean the patient who died in the hospital?

Red Cross: I have to explain it clearly to you, because our successful donations are all done in hospitals.

Investigator: Eh.

Red Cross: The conditions for their successes have to be in hospitals.

Investigator: Eh, oh, because that kind, yeah...

Red Cross: There are indeed very few.

Investigator: If it happened at home, if the death happened at home, that's all unexpected, usually, those that can be donated are all unexpected...

Red Cross: We can't do that, this kind, the kind that happened at home, that is, it happened unexpectedly or sudden death, we...because there's a strict assessment before the organ is obtained.

Investigator: Eh...

Red Cross: We have no way of doing the assessment for such sudden death at home. Perhaps when the individual is sent to a hospital, it's already, already over the best time for organ obtainment.

Investigator: Okay. They say, at the Qinghai airport, there's already a special channel for organs. So I think, if there are a lot of donated organs, are they given to others or...

Red Cross: There is indeed. Because when there's a donation, definitely...when there is a donation case, definitely the work will be carried out jointly with relevant agencies. Tell you what, since last year when the promotion work started, there have been only four cases, and three of which were liver donations. Because they all went through this allocation system, they didn't necessarily match the patients, so the first two cases were allocated to other provinces.

Investigator: Oh...

Red Cross: They were allocated through the allocation system, not by our coordinators, neither were they allocated by our doctors themselves.

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross: We don't have such authorities.

Investigator: Oh, oh...

Red Cross: That's how things are done.

Investigator: Oh, there were only four liver donations. What about corneas and kidneys? They were different stories, right?

Red Cross: Same thing. The allocations of all organs are based on one principle, going through one process.



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Investigator: Oh, okay, now I know. Alright, let me think about it, and thank you.

Red Cross: Okay.

Investigator: Thanks! Okay, bye!

Red Cross: Bye!