

## **Abstract**

Due to the lack of organs suitable for transplants and the continuing significant disparity between the number of patients waiting for transplants and the number of transplants performed, it is necessary to look for other possibilities of obtaining organs. Donors with irreversible circulatory arrest (DCD - donor after circulatory death) could be one way. In the Czech Republic, organ harvesting from DCD donors has been carried out since 2002.

In my bachelor's thesis, I investigated the awareness of non-medical healthcare professionals about DCD donation, as I believe that low awareness could be one of the barriers to the introduction of DCD into routine practice.

**Theoretical part:** I describe the history of transplants, immunosuppression, and the concept of brain death, the differences between donors after brain death (DBD - donor after brain death) and DCD donors, as well as the principles of their care. At the end of the theoretical part, I present a summary of the results of foreign and Czech transplants from DCD donors, which are very good.

**Method:** Health professionals' awareness of DCD donation was investigated in 6 larger Prague. Questionnaires were distributed in the department where health professionals could meet organ donors - DBD and DCD. 213 correctly completed questionnaires out of 335 were analysed. The return rate was 64%.

### **Empirical part:**

The results of our own investigation show that, overall, 52% of the surveyed respondents answered the knowledge questions correctly.

The statistical calculations show that the level of education and experience with DCD donor shave a statistically significant effect on the correctness of the answers. On the contrary, the connection between the length of practice and a higher frequency of correct answers was not confirmed.

**Conclusion:** From my point of view it is very important to explain the issue of DCD donation to all health professionals, whether during secondary, higher or university studies or in lifelong education.