

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Somatic survival and organ donation among brain-dead patients in the state of Qatar

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 12 May 2016

**Reviewer:** Gail Van Norman

### **Reviewer's report:**

Comments:

General Comments: this is a straight-forward article that is well-written and to the point. There are some minor grammatical errors, likely due to translation issues that should be corrected in final editing, but they are minor. There are duplicate references in the reference section and these should be renumbered and consolidated along whatever lines required by the journal.

The material here is not new in a global sense--however, data from predominantly muslim countries on management of brain death, organ donation and intensive care is lacking, and this article does, I believe serve to expand the multicultural knowledge concerning these critical issues.

I hope the authors will consider doing another paper looking at issues such as why the families who refused donation did so, and how they feel a year or more after their decision to donate or not donate.

Specific comments:

Background:

1. The definition of brain death varies, from "whole brain" death accepted in the United States, to "brainstem" death in many other Western countries. The authors should specify which definition is used in Qatar (it is implied here that the definition is whole brain death).

2. I would say that acceptance of brain death as a definition of death is "nearly" global..there are still some countries and cultures who either have not officially recognized brain death, or only relatively recently (e.g. Japan in the last 15 years).

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**

If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**

If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**

If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**

If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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