Reviewer’s report

Title: Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey on Organ Donation among a Selected Adult Population of Pakistan

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2009

Reviewer: Misao Fujita

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This important study provides valuable data on a KAP study involving organ transplantation targeted at the general public of Pakistan. In addition, this timely report reflects the situation following promulgation of the ordinance. Please incorporate the suggestions below.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Introduction: Please provide a more in-depth description of the ordinance promulgated in 2007. For example, does the ordinance define brain death as human death? We have heard that in Pakistan, brain death did not equate to human death. Also, does the ordinance stipulate something about living donor protection (such as means of obtaining consent)? Does it stipulate developing an organ distribution system like UNOS in the US?

Please explain the current situation regarding organ donation from living and brain dead donors in Pakistan by providing data on numbers of cases and organ transplant facilities.

Methods: It is generally considered that motives for donation are completely different for brain dead and living donors. However, these two types of donors were not differentiated in the questionnaire used in this study. It is possible that answers for subjects who imagined being brain dead or living donors are mixed together, and therefore the results may lack validity. If this suggestion is relevant, you should add this as a limitation of the study in the Discussion section.

Discussion: The percentage of people who want to donate their organs to a family member is compared to previous studies (p. 18, third paragraph), but more deliberate arguments and careful citations are required. As mentioned above, answers for subjects who imagined being brain dead or living donors may be mixed together in the result regarding motives for donation in this study. Furthermore, references (reference 14-17) are cited without distinguishing those involving organ transplants from brain dead donors and living donors. Given that motives of donation for brain dead and living donors are different, simply comparing numbers from these previous studies is inadequate.

Minor Essential Revisions

Results: Please rewrite the results regarding replies to the question in Section 3 (Part A) of the questionnaire (“16. Who would you like to donate your organs...”)
to?”) to improve clarity. You state in the main text, “A sizeable majority of the people reported that they would donate their organs to a family member (39.7%)” (p. 12, second paragraph), but Table 4 inconsistently indicates that 51.1% of people would donate their organ to a family member.

The Discussion section indicates that socioeconomic levels are categorized based on eight variables (p. 22, first paragraph). These variables should be defined in the Methods or Results section.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.