

# The gift of life: 67-year-old woman's organs save three

**FIFTH IN 2016** Family volunteered when they were told she had suffered irreversible brain damage

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**MUMBAI:** A 67-year-old woman's organs gave life to three end-stage organ failure patients on Friday. This was the city's first cadaver donation this month.

The organs of the Napean-Sea-Road-resident, who had been admitted to the hospital on Wednesday after she suddenly collapsed at home, were donated to Saifee Hospital in Charni Road.

"She (name withheld) collapsed while she was praying at home," said Dr Shabina from Saifee Hospital. "The family was shocked as she never had any ailments and had not complained of any pain either."

Doctors said the deceased donor had developed intracranial bleeding - a condition where the blood vessels in the brain rupture or start leaking. She was a well-known tuition teacher in south Mumbai.

When doctors told the family of the irreversible brain damage she had suffered, they did not shy away from donating her organs. On Friday evening, the son and the brother of the deceased consented to donate her organs saving the life of three end-stage organ failure patients.

"Once all medical interventions proved futile, the family decided to donate the organs and help save lives of others," said Dr Shabina.

## WHAT IS CADAVER TRANSPLANT?

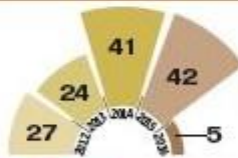
Cadaver transplants refer to the act of retrieving organs from brain-dead patients and transplanting them into patients battling end-stage organ failure

## WHICH ORGANS CAN BE DONATED?

**In case of brain death:** Comas, skin, liver, kidney, pancreas, heart and lungs

**In case of cardiac death:** Comas, skin and heart valves can be donated within six hours of death

## CADAVER DONATIONS IN MUMBAI



## STEP BY STEP

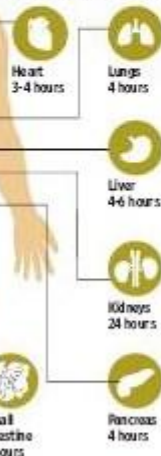
- Clock starts ticking as soon as a person is declared brain dead
- Most organs can be kept on ice after extraction for a very short time
- First step: Counselling the family of a person declared brain-dead to encourage them to donate
- Donor registries are alerted, matching recipients put on standby. Crucial parameters for transplantation match: Age, blood group, and weight
- Before retrieval begins, transport links between hospitals are established.

As the family was aware about organ donation, the process was smoothly facilitated.

The woman's liver was transplanted to a patient admitted at Global Hospital in Parel. The 45-year-old man

## RACE AGAINST TIME

■ Most organs are 'viable' - healthy enough for transplantation - within the first three-six hours only. Their smooth transportation is of essence.



On any given day, there are more than 10,000 patients in India in need of an organ for a transplant

had been waiting for a liver transplant for over a year. One of the kidneys was transported to Nanavati

## THE FIVE DONATIONS THIS YEAR WERE REPORTED FROM PRIVATE HOSPITALS, WHICH HAVE ACTIVE TRANSPLANT PROGRAMMES

Hospital, where it was transplanted to a 28-year-old man. He was undergoing dialysis regularly as his kidneys were not functioning optimally

The other kidney was transported to a 43-year-old man at Saifee Hospital, who had been waiting for a kidney since five years.

This is the fifth cadaver donation of the year. Last year 42 cadaver donations were facilitated at different hospitals.

Public hospitals have not facilitated any cadaver donation this year, said doctors working for improving cadaver donation programmes in the city. All the five donations this year were reported from private hospitals which have active transplant programmes.

"We have asked all hospitals to submit the number of brain-dead patients identified in their intensive care unit. This will help us find out if the hospitals are working for the cause," said a senior official from state health department.