

Introduction

On the current organ waiting list 28% are Black and Ethnic Minority (BAEM) patients with only 3% of BAEM patients being deceased organ donors¹. Religious beliefs have found to be the major barrier to organ procurement, with the vast majority of BAEM patients being Muslims².



No verse in the Quran directly mentions organ donation. Scholars agree living donation is permissible under these circumstances³:

- 1) Improves quality of life of the recipient.
- 2) Done as an altruistic act.
- 3) Blood, a kidney, bone marrow, sections of lung lobules and sections of liver are considered permissible, as no detrimental effect should occur with this in an otherwise healthy individual.
- 4) Procedure is not an act of mutilation

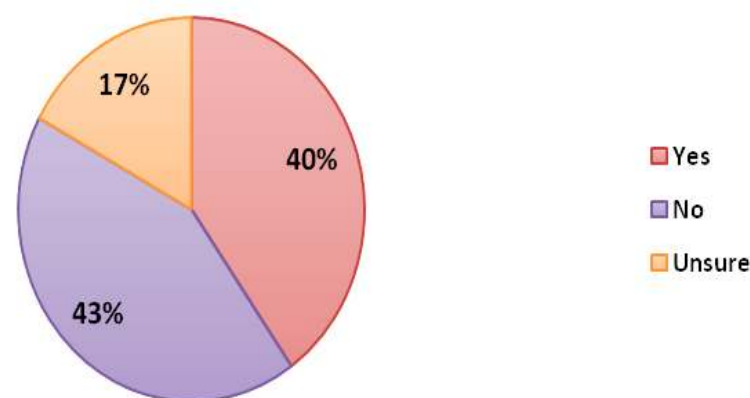
Methods

A research survey was conducted on 207 Muslims within UK aged between 16-60+ during May 2018. The data collected included: knowledge and attitudes on organ donation and where these arose from, the definition of death (circulatory and brainstem death (BSD)) and organs considered donating whilst living or deceased.

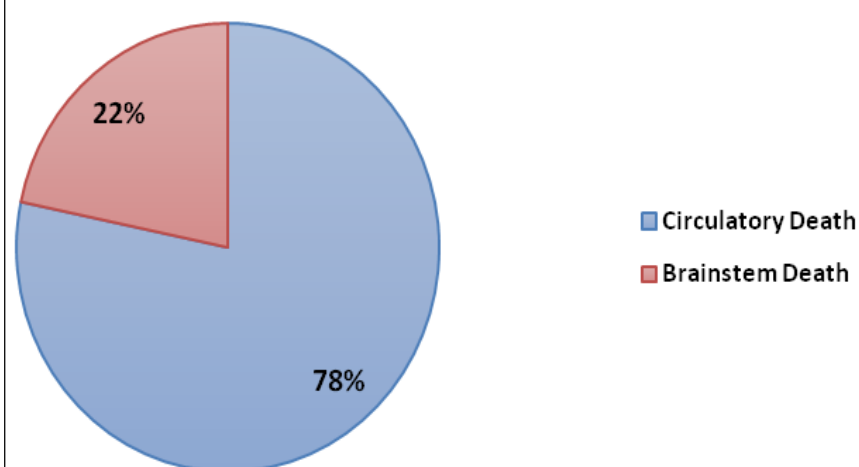
Results

The study revealed 57% of participants had considered organ donation, the majority promoted by the media or within their profession. Predominantly 64% of the outlook stemmed from an Islamic viewpoint with 39% indifferent to whom their organs were donated to. For living organ donation 16% of participants stated they would not donate an organ whilst alive yet deceased this figure rose to 55%.

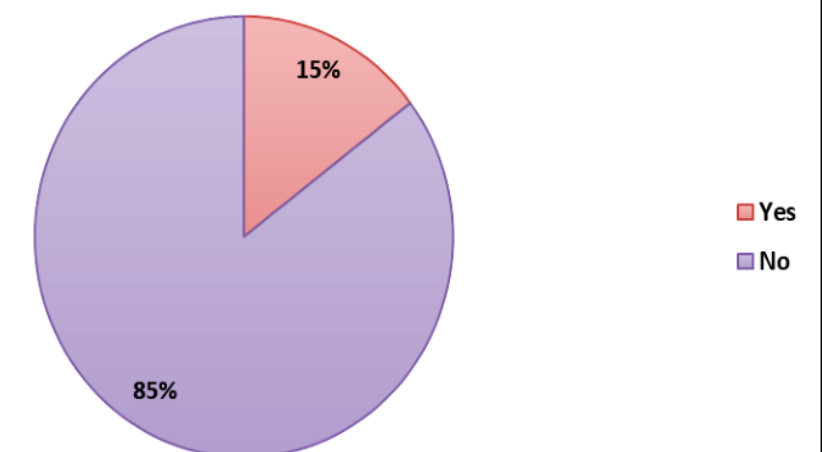
If a person was declared brainstem dead and was a willing donor, would you think it is acceptable to use their organs?



What is your definition of death?



As the majority of UK donors are brainstem dead patients, do you consider yourself to have an in-depth knowledge of brainstem death?



Conclusion

If attitudes are to change within the BAEM community more educational campaigns ought to occur, including information on BSD. This is as many people are unaware of BSD, despite it being the major source of deceased organ donation within the UK⁴.

References

- ¹ NHS Blood and Transplant. (2016). *Organ Donation and Transplantation Data for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities*. Available: https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/4480/bame_organ_donation_and_transplantation_data.pdf. Last accessed 15th May 2018.
- ² Rady M, Verheijde. (2014). The moral code in Islam and organ donation in Western countries: reinterpreting religious scriptures to meet utilitarian medical objectives. *Philosophy, Ethics and Humanities in Medicine*. 9 (11), 1.
- ³ Rashid R. (2018). *Organ Donation Webinar*. Available: <https://www.albalaghacademy.com/videos-page/>. Last accessed 18th May 2018.
- ⁴ NHS. (2018a). *Organ Donation*. Available: <http://www.porthosp.nhs.uk/for-inpatients/patient-support-and-advice/organ-donation.htm>. Last accessed 24th May 2018.