

Grief symptoms similar in donor vs non-donor decision families

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(HealthDay)—Perceptions of the organ donation experience vary

between relatives who decide to donate their relative's organs and those who do not, but the decision does not appear to be associated with subsequent grief symptoms, according to a study published online March 19 in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Nancy Kentish-Barnes, Ph.D., from the Saint-Louis University Hospital in Paris, and colleagues assessed the [organ donation](#) process and grief symptoms in [relatives](#) of 202 brain dead patients who discussed organ donation in 28 French intensive care units. Relatives were surveyed at one, three, and nine months

The researchers found that 44 of the relatives refused organ donation. Participation in follow-up interviews were 78 percent at 1 month, 68 percent at 3 months, and 58 percent at 9 months. While relatives of non-donors were more dissatisfied with communication (P = 0.021), more often shocked by the request (P

"We show that experience of organ donation processes varies between relatives of donor versus non-donor patients, the latter experiencing more difficulty and burden," the authors write. "However, the decision to donate (consent/refusal) is not associated with grief symptoms."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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