ABSTRACT

As HIV infection has evolved from a highly morbid diagnosis to a functionally chronic condition, comorbid conditions including liver and kidney failure have become more prevalent. Limited organ availability prevents many persons living with HIV (PLWH) from having an opportunity for transplantation. Inclusion of PLWH as organ donors is uniquely suited to increasing access to life-saving grafts. Here, we sought to assess the awareness of the HOPE Act in PLWH and determine whether providing information on the HOPE Act and HIV to HIV transplantation increased support for becoming an organ donor.

Using a computer interface, we surveyed 200 patients in an HIV clinic and assessed their awareness of the HOPE Act and attitudes toward organ transplantation. Incorporated into the survey was a brief explanation of the HOPE Act and background into HIV to HIV transplantation. The information provided during the survey functioned as an intervention, and we again asked participants about their willingness to become an organ donor at the end of the survey.

RESULTS: SURVEY RESPONSES

KNOWLEDGE OF PATIENTS ABOUT THE HOPE ACT

(A) Do you know whether HIV patients are allowed to donate organs at the time of their death? (B) Are you familiar with the HOPE act?

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<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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ORGAN DONATION TO INCREASE QUALITY OF LIFE

(C) Would you accept an organ from a HIV-infected patient to stay alive and/or improve your quality of life? (D) Would you accept an organ from an HIV-infected patient while you are still alive.

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LIVING DONATION

(E) If an HIV-infected individual agreed to offer a living organ donation, would you expect the associated medical risks to the donor would be: (F) If you answered ‘yes’ or ‘not sure’ to the previous question, what is your reason?

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<th>Response</th>
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RESULTS: EFFECT OF INTERVENTION ON BECOMING AN ORGAN DONOR

- Pre- and Post-Intervention: "I Want to Be an Organ Donor"

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- HIV-infected persons are at particularly high risk for organ failure.
- Most HIV-infected patients were unaware of HIV to HIV transplantation as a possibility and had reluctance to agreeing to become an organ donor.
- With this very brief, passive intervention, attitude towards transplantation significantly improved.
- These findings suggest informing PLWH about the HOPE Act and becoming an organ donor would be beneficial as HIV to HIV transplantation becomes more readily available.