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### **Beliefs of Donors About Liver Failure and Transplantation Surgery**

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**Introduction:** Not only recipients but also donors can be affected by liver transplantation. Only a small number of qualitative studies have explored donors' beliefs.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to explore donors' beliefs about liver failure and transplantation surgery.

**Methods:** The sample consisted of 16 living donors of liver transplant. An interview guide was followed during the interviews. Thematic analysis was undertaken in parallel with interviews. Established conventions were followed for analyzing anonymised interview transcripts inductively.

**Results:** Participants' accounts can be grouped into a number of beliefs including beliefs about liver failure, being a donor, transplantation and organ donation. Beliefs about renal failure included diverse explanations for liver failure (blaming oneself and doctors, senseless drug use, stress, God's will) and physical symptoms (yellowing, itching). Beliefs about being a donor included reasons for being a donor (performing a good deed, being healed, not committing a sin), barriers to being a donor (being criticized by others, other people being senseless, ignorant and selfish), ways to manage these barriers (getting loved ones' consent, following one's gut feeling), factors facilitating being a donor (having a few responsibilities and not having many people to leave behind). Beliefs about transplantation surgery included physical effects (pain, feeling stiff). Beliefs about organ donation included the views that organ donation should be encouraged and awareness should be raised.

**Discussion:** Some beliefs could be interpreted in terms of existing psychological theory. However, other beliefs which were not reported before could be viewed as targets for psycho-educational programs.