

Category : **Ethical issues/end-of-life**

A142 - Organ donation in immigrant population: a retrospective analysis from the most populated region of italy

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Introduction:

The attitude toward post-mortem organ donation is complex and multifactorial and may be influenced by numerous factors. Given the ongoing and emergent phenomenon of immigration, underlying attitude of individuals migrated from other countries is becoming an important part of the donation process.

Methods:

Retrospective observational study (2019-2023) including all Lombardy donors. Data were obtained from the Lombardy Donor Record System “Donor Manager”. General demographic and descriptive variables were collected. Quantitative variables are expressed as mean±SD for normal distribution and median (IQR 25-75) for non-normal. Qualitative variables are expressed as percentage.

Results:

Two hundred forty-nine foreign-born potential donors were considered. Mean age was 45±15 years. Males accounted 64% (n=160) of the sample.

Two hundred thirty-eight (96%) were eligible for donation, refusal rate was 47% (n=116), with no age or sex difference compared to non-refusal group (p=0.22; p=0.61 respectively). Refusal rate was almost two times higher, compared to Italian-born population (26%).

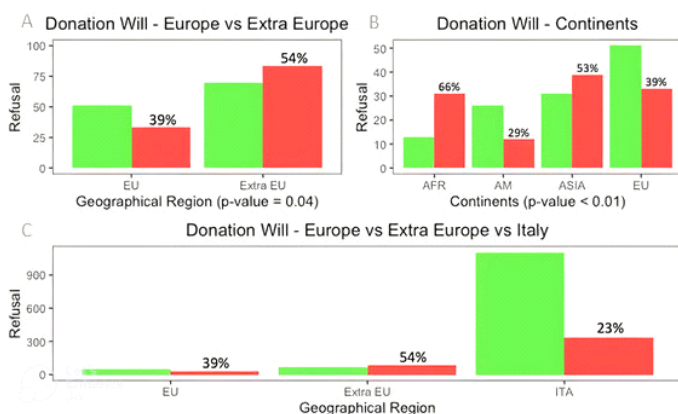
Among eligible foreign-born donors, 65% (n=154) were extra-EU born and had a higher rate (54% vs 39% in EU born) of donation refusal (p=0.04).

Moreover, by dividing eligible foreign-born donors into different continents we assessed refusal rate, showing a significant difference (p<0.01). Africa was the continent with the highest refusal rate (66%), followed by Asia (53%), Europe (39%) and America (29%).

Conclusion:

In this Italian subset of foreign-donor population the refusal rate was almost doubled compared to the Italian rate, interestingly it is even higher in non EU born immigrants. Our results underline the importance of different social approaches to different cultures, the importance of talking with local foreign communities and building trust in the health institution, from access to care to the possibility of organ donation.

Image :



All the plots illustrate refusal (red) and non-refusal (green) rate of

eligible donors. EU = Europe; AFR = Africa; AM = America. In plot A and plot B are displayed foreign-born donors divided by Europe and Extra-Europe born and by continent of birth. In plot C we wanted to show the comparison of refusal rate between foreign-born donors and Italian donors.