

Knowledge of and opinion on organ transplantation among priests of selected Christian religion

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: As Polish society is in its majority Christian, the knowledge and attitudes presented by priests may have a tangible impact on Church members' decisions concerning organ donation.

Purpose: To evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, and decisions of priests of various Christian denominations regarding organ transplants in Poland.

Materials and methods: The paper presents the results of a study carried out in the form of a questionnaire survey of 86 priests. Survey participants included priests of 3 most common Christian denominations in Poland: Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox.

Results: Awareness of the current regulatory framework among the clergy is relatively low. Only a

small percentage gave correct answers to questions about applicable laws regulating the matter of organ transplantation in Poland.

Conclusions: Data gathered during the study implies a positive attitude among priests towards organ transplantation performed to save life and improve health. A vast majority of survey participants support the idea of transplantation. The problem is low awareness of existing documents and laws regulating organ transplantation.

Keywords: Transplantation, Christian religion, organ donation, medical law

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