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**СОЦИАЛЬНЫЕ И ЭТИЧЕСКИЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ СОВРЕМЕННОЙ  
ТРАНСПЛАНТАЛОГИИ**

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**SOCIAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES OF MODERN TRANSPLANTATION**

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**Резюме.** Нехватка органов – одна из главных проблем современной трансплантации, и в связи с этим возникают такие социальные проблемы, как торговля органами и трансплантационный туризм. Групповое донорство является одним из способов восполнения нехватки органов, но некоторые морально-этические факторы препятствуют его реализации. В данной работе сделана попытка узнать отношение белорусских студентов к данным проблемам.

**Ключевые слова:** трансплантация, нехватка органов, торговля органами.

**Resume.** The shortage of organs is a universal problem of current transplantation, and in this connection social problems such as organ trafficking and transplant tourism arise. Deceased donation is one way to eliminate organ shortage, but some moral and ethical factors hinder its implementation. In this work an attempt to find out the attitude of Belarusian students to these problems was made.

**Keywords:** transplantation, organ shortage, organ trafficking.

**Relevance.** Organ transplantation is one of the medical branches that is constantly developing and improving. Operations on organ grafting have prolonged patients' lifespan and improved their quality of life worldwide. Contribution made by organ donors and their families as well as important scientific and clinical advances achieved by healthcare providers is not only a life-saving therapy but a symbol of human solidarity and cooperation.

In 2008, the Declaration of Istanbul was adopted at the Istanbul Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism. This document lays a cornerstone for guidelines to clamp down transplant commercialism using vulnerable, living in poverty groups of population as a source of organs [1].

Despite these regulations, social and moral-ethical problems connected with transplantation interfere with its further development all over the world and affect various population groups [2,3].

**Aim:** to focus on the problems which transplantation has given rise to (e.g. organ shortage, a donor's and their relatives' consent, organ trade and trafficking, transplant tourism) and world's efforts for eliminating them; to find out the attitude of young people to these problems.

**Tasks:**

1. To elucidate the problems of modern transplantation.
2. To show methods of international regulation and solutions to these problems.
3. To demonstrate the attitude of different religions to these problems.
4. To conduct a survey among students of various social groups.

**Materials and methods.** A survey to discover students' attitude towards the problems of transplantation was conducted. Students' attitude towards organ trade issue was studied taking into consideration their religion and affiliation to medicine (Figure 1).

In the research answers of Belarusian students (n=310) of universities of different education scopes were analyzed. The number of medical students was 118.

1. Do you plan to register a consent to use your organs and/or tissues for donation during your life? (Yes / No)
2. Give your opinion regarding the saying “*Do not take your organs to heaven, heaven knows we need them here*”. (Agree / Disagree)
3. In your opinion, is the consent of a person’s relatives to organ removal necessary? (Yes / No)
4. What do you think about organ trading and trafficking? (It’s unacceptable / It’s must be legalized)
5. Do you consider yourself a religious person? (Yes / No) + *state your religion*

**Fig. 1** – The list of questions. The percentage of the underlined answers was shown in Figures 2,3

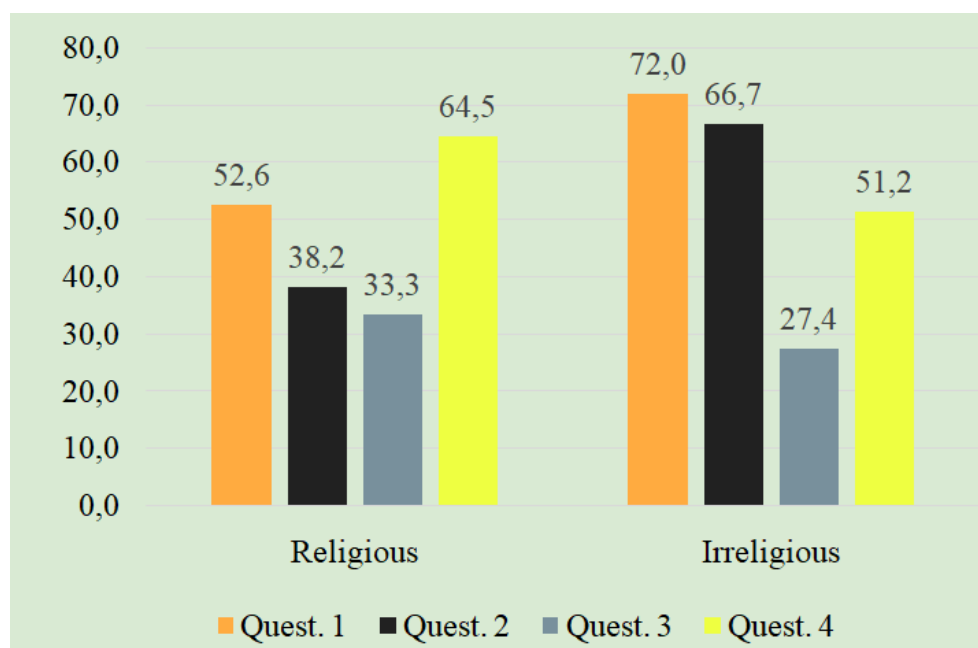
**Results and discussion.** From the answers to questions 1 and 2, it follows that non-religious people were more likely to speak out in support of donation than believers. It was established that 52.6% religious and 72.0% irreligious people had confirmed their consent to be organ donors.

On the whole, comparing the results of this poll with the 1993’s data of Gallup Poll [4], it is possible to speak about the positive tendencies regarding donation: 69% in 1993 vs 79.1% in 2020.

In the question of the need to obtain the relatives' consent there was no difference between the groups answers. The need for relatives’ consent to organ procurement after a person’s death was approved by 33.3% religious respondents; among disbelieving people the same category was 27.4%.

Likewise, 38.2% religious and 66.7% irreligious people agree with the saying “Do not take your organs to heaven, heaven knows we need them here”.

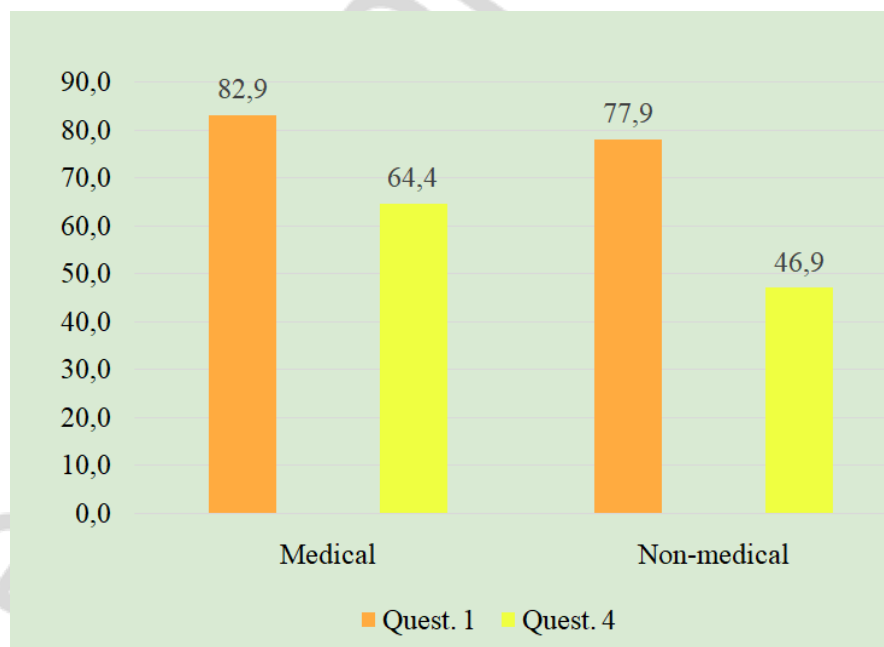
Also, the attitude of religious people towards organ trade turned out to be more negative compared with atheists’ opinion: 64.5% vs 51.2%(Figure 2).



**Fig. 2** – The comparison of answers of medical and non-medical students

Students' of medical and non-medical profiles attitude to ques. № 1, 2, 3 does not differ (the difference between these two groups was 82.9% vs 77.9% about question № 1).

For the matter of legalization of organ trade, where 64.4% medics had spoken out “contra”, at the same time, the majority (53.1%) of students-non-medicals had spoken out “pro” legalization (Figure 3).



**Fig. 3** – The comparison of answers of medical and non-medical students

Due to the small amount of religious people among the students (n=76), it was not possible to analyze the attitude of representatives of various religions to the above-mentioned problems.

**Conclusions:**

1 Due to the development of organ grafting, a number of problems that remain unresolved to this day have arisen in the society.

2 The shortage of organs stimulated the appearance of social and ethical problems associated with organ donation and transplantation in general, therefore the formation of a positive attitude towards donation in the society is necessary.

3 It was found out that religion determines a person's attitude to the issues of donation to a greater extent compared with the sphere of his employment.

#### Literature

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