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**SOCIAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES OF MODERN TRANSPLANTATION**  
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**Relevance.** Organ transplantation is one of the medical branches that is constantly developing and improving. Operations on organ grafting have prolonged patient's 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. 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.

**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.

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

**Results and discussion.** It was established that 52.6% religious and 72.0% irreligious people had confirmed their consent to be organ donors. While comparing medical and non-medical students, the difference between these two groups was less manifested: 82.9% vs 77.9%. On the whole, comparing the results of this poll with the 1993's data (Gallup Poll, 1993), it is possible to speak about the positive tendencies regarding donation: 69% in 1993 vs 79.1% in 2020.

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". 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%. Also, the attitude of religious people towards organ trade turned out to be more negative compared with atheists' opinion: 64.5% vs 51.2%. Students' of medical and non-medical profiles attitude to the same matter does not differ, except 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. 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.

**Conclusion.** Due to the development of organ grafting, a number of problems have arisen in society that remain unresolved to this day. 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. In turn, it was found that religion determines a person's attitude to the issues of donation to a greater extent compared with the sphere of his employment.