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Experiences of living organ donors about advocator in Korea.

Hyung Sook Kim¹, Yang Sook Yoo²

¹Department of organ transplantation center, The Catholic University of Korea Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, Republic of Korea

²Department of Nursing, The Catholic university, College of Nursing,, Republic of Korea

Introduction: The percentage of living organ donors in Korea is higher than other countries, which is 49.74 per 1 million. The rate of living organ donation has recently increased as the proportion of brain-dead donors declined due to COVID-19, etc. The donor-supporting advocate system is implemented in only few hospitals in Korea. It is necessary to recognize cultural differences and importance of advocator in Korea by referencing experience of living organ donors who conducted interviews with advocator.

Methods: 10 people who donated liver or kidney as living organ donors in same hospital were interviewed. It is a qualitative study that analyzed donor statements through open questions about experience of the advocated system before transplantation. Through phenomenological approach, this study classified consequences living donors experienced by interviewing with advocator before donation.

Results: Even in case of living donation for family, donor may fear about his or her health. Support for living donors through advocator has been opportunity for donors to reflect on their anxiety about donation. Additionally, it relieved donors by notifying existence of donor supporting systems. On the other hand, donors who already received enough information responded that it was unnecessary.

Conclusion: This study identified psychological shifts experienced by living donors when they met advocator in process of donations. It is believed that based on the advocate support system, donors were provided psychological support and convinced about donation before donation. This study is expected to be helpful for donor education, which can be psychological support to living donors in Korea.