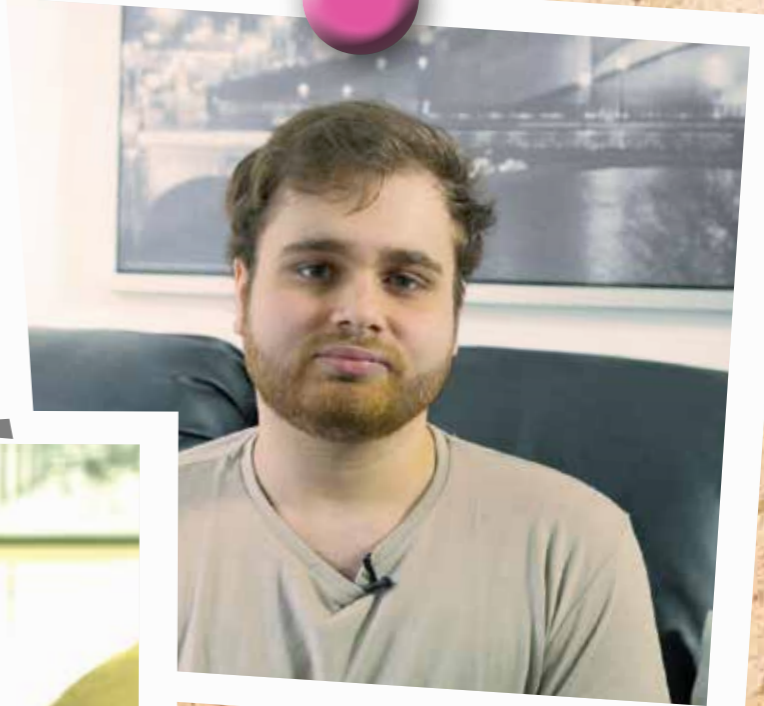


Lesson 2:

The life stories behind organ and tissue donation



Lesson outcomes

- To be able to describe how someone waiting for an organ or tissue transplant might feel.
- To be able to describe how someone who has had a transplant might feel
- To be able to identify the benefits of receiving a transplant
- To be able to explain why there is a need for more organ donors from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities
- To be able to describe some of the dilemmas involved in organ and tissue donation.



Activity 1

Discuss how organ and tissue donation can improve and save the life of another person

Go to nhsbt.nhs.uk/teaching-resources to watch Jess, Charles and Ollie's films

Watch:

The film has been developed to help you understand how lives are affected by organ and tissue donation.

Think:

Listen to Jess, Charles and Ollie's stories. Try to answer the questions on the student activity sheets.

Pair:

With your partner, discuss Jess, Charles and Ollie's stories (questions 1 - 8).

Share:

Be ready to present your ideas to the class.



Activity 1

Discuss how organ and tissue donation can improve and save the life of another person

Questions to consider after the film:

- Compare and discuss your answers with a partner. Did you agree or disagree on any of them?
- Were there any parts of Jess, Charles and Ollie's stories that inspired you?
- Were you surprised by the fact that on average people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities wait longer for a kidney transplant than white patients?
- Why do you think Jess, Charles and Ollie wanted to share their experiences with you?



Facts about organ and tissue donation:

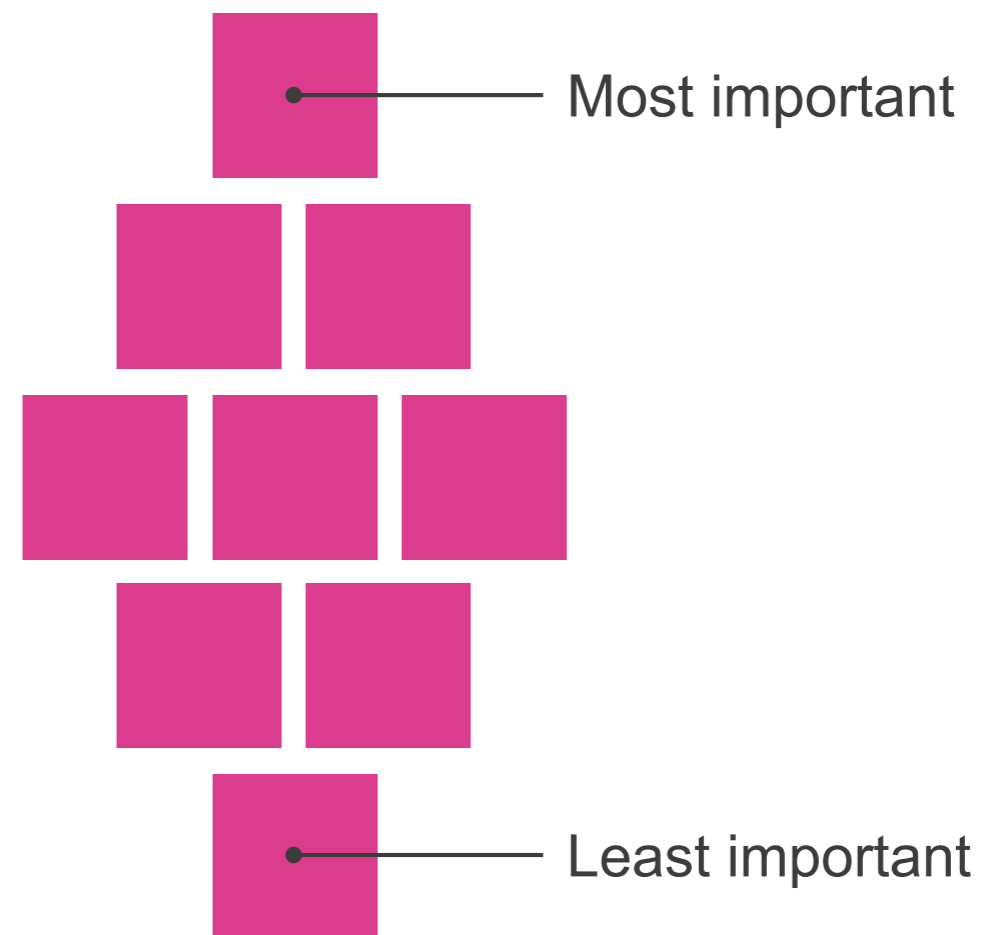
- Despite the thousands of life-saving transplant operations that take place every year, around 6,500 people in the UK are on the active waiting list
- Around 5,500 people die each year in circumstances where they can donate their organs
- On average three people die every day in need of a transplant because there are not enough organ donors
- 82% of the population definitely want to donate or would consider donating their organs – but only half have talked about it with their families
- Fewer than half of families in England would agree to donation going ahead if they were unaware of their loved one's decision to be a donor
- On average patients from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities wait longer for a kidney transplant than white patients due to the lack of suitable organs from people from the same ethnic background (who are more likely to be a close match)
- One donor can save or transform up to nine lives
- Corneas can be donated up to 24 hours after a person dies
- The cornea provides 65-75% of your eye's ability to focus, however disease or injury can make the cornea cloudy or distorted, causing vision loss
- You are more likely to die in circumstances where you can donate your corneas than other organs or tissues.



Activity 2: Diamond nine

What are the strongest arguments for organ and tissue donation?

Arrange the statements in the shape of a diamond to represent your views on the importance of each, with the most important at the top point of the diamond shape and the least important at the base.



Activity 2: Diamond nine

What are the strongest arguments for organ and tissue donation?

Add your own reason

All major religions in the UK support the principles of organ and tissue donation.

Despite the thousands of life-saving transplant operations that take place every year, around 6,500 people in the UK are on the active waiting list.

An organ or tissue is the greatest gift that anyone can offer.

One organ donor can improve the lives of up to nine people.

Your family may take comfort from the fact that your organs and tissues will be used to help other people's lives.

One day it could be someone you know or love, or even you, in need of a transplant.

Your family may take comfort from the fact that your corneas could help someone see again.

Statistically, you're much more likely to need an organ yourself than to be an organ donor.



Activity 3: Moral dilemmas

Recognise and discuss the dilemmas surrounding transplants

Task:

You will be given one of the following dilemmas to discuss in your group.

Remember there is no wrong or right answer to these dilemmas.



Activity 3: Moral dilemmas

Recognise and discuss the dilemmas surrounding transplants

Dilemma 1

A child patient at Great Ormond Street Hospital has a heart defect. The child will eventually die if she does not receive a transplant. Her parents are willing but the girl is scared of the risks and does not want the operation to go ahead.

- Should the child's rights be considered in the decision-making process?
- What should the child's doctors do?



Activity 3: Moral dilemmas

Recognise and discuss the dilemmas surrounding transplants

Dilemma 2

A politician says that if you are not on the NHS Organ Donor Register, you should not be eligible for a transplant.

- Is this fair?



Activity 3: Moral dilemmas

Recognise and discuss the dilemmas surrounding transplants

Dilemma 3

A young patient who is brain dead is on the NHS Organ Donor Register, but they did not discuss their decision with their family.

- Should donation go ahead?



Lesson summary

Transplants can improve lives, save them, and extend them.

Transplants are often the only option available to people with damaged organs or tissue.

Support from your family is vital for organ and tissue donation to go ahead.

One donor can save or transform up to nine lives.

There is a particular need for more organ donors from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.



Looking back on the lesson

- Today in class I learnt...
- I think that the three strongest arguments for organ and tissue donation are...
- Before the lesson I thought...
- After the lesson I now feel...

