



Alzheimer's Disease Center

Brain Donation Fact Sheet

WHY IS BRAIN DONATION IMPORTANT?

There are several reasons why brain tissue donation is important. First, examining the brain after death is currently the only way to reach a definite diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, so donation can provide families with closure by informing them that the diagnosis was, without a doubt, Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder. Second, brain donation provides valuable information to scientists for important research that will help solve the mysteries of Alzheimer's disease and improve treatment for future patients. Third, brain donation allows patients and loved ones to provide a gift of hope to future generations in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

WHO CAN DONATE?

Every participant of the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center's HOPE study is eligible, including persons with or without memory problems. If you would like to join the HOPE study, please call our Recruitment Coordinator at 617-414-1077.

IS BRAIN DONATION COMPATIBLE WITH MY RELIGION?

Most religions accept and support brain and organ donation. If you are concerned about donation and your religious faith, please discuss this with your spiritual leader.

IS THERE ANY COST?

No. Brain donation will not cost you anything. The Alzheimer's Disease Center's Brain Donation Program will pay for all expenses involved with the donation.

More information about brain donation is available on the other side of this page



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WILL BRAIN
DONATION CHANGE
MY MEDICAL
TREATMENT?

No. Becoming a brain donor does not change a person's medical treatment in any way.

WILL I NEED TO
ALTER MY FUNERAL
ARRANGEMENTS?

No. Brain donation does not interfere with any traditional or religious funeral arrangements, such as an open casket viewing. Your donation will not delay or complicate your family's plans for a funeral.

WHAT HAPPENS
AFTER THE BRAIN
DONATION
PROGRAM IS
INFORMED OF MY
PASSING?

Once our Brain Donation Program Coordinator has been informed of a participant's passing, he or she will arrange for the brain donation to be carried out. The donation procedure will be performed in the funeral home and takes less than one hour. Those involved in this process make it their priority to treat the deceased with respect and compassion.

WHO SHOULD I
INFORM ABOUT MY
DONATION
DECISION?

It is important to inform those who are involved with your end of life care about your decision to donate brain tissue. Examples may include relatives, friends, doctors, or other health professionals.

WHAT IF I CHANGE
MY MIND, AND I NO
LONGER WISH TO
DONATE MY
BRAIN?

You can cancel your donation decision at any time. Please contact the Brain Donation Program Coordinator at 617-638-8390 to inform the program of your decision.

The Boston University Alzheimer Disease Center would like to thank all of those who help advance research with the unique and indispensable gift of brain donation.

If you have any questions or concerns about brain donation, please feel free to contact the HOPE Study Brain Donation Coordinator at 617-638-8390.