

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Donor Information for Living Donor Liver Transplantation: The Urgent Need for Internationally Accepted Standardized Information Aids

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TO THE EDITORS:

We read with great interest the letter by Gordon et al. concerning our recently published study of the quality of the information on living donor liver transplantation available on the Internet.¹

We agree that there is an urgent need for standardized and comprehensive information that is readily available for potential living liver donors. This can probably be best achieved with a Web-based tool that not only informs potential donors about the risks and benefits but also educates them by delivering interactive personalized information and hence allows them to receive the information that best suits them. This will lead potential living donors to a more effective and ethically acceptable informed consent process.

Before such a sophisticated Web-based tool is designed, we should focus on establishing a standardized donor information aid document. We have already initiated the development of such a document that complies with the well-accepted International Patient Decision Aid Standards.² The methodology relies on the Web-based Delphi consensus model to ensure an internationally well-accepted document.²

We have contacted expert researchers and developers familiar with this topic; these individuals should include lay people, surgeons, hepatologists, oncologists, epidemiologists, ethicists, and e-health

specialists. Those who are interested in collaborating with us may register their interest at our newly created Web site³ and thereby help us to produce an internationally accepted consensus on standardized information for living liver donor aid documents.

Emmanuel Melloul, M.D.
Dimitri Aristotle Raptis, M.D., M.Sc.
Christian Eugen Oberkofler, M.D.
Philipp Dutkowski, M.D.
Mickael Lesurtel, M.D., Ph.D.
Pierre-Alain Clavien, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Surgery
University Hospital of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland

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3. LDLT.org. Register your interest in collaborating with us. <http://www.ldlt.org/?q=register>. Accessed May 2012.

Address reprint requests to Pierre-Alain Clavien, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Surgery, University Hospital of Zurich, Raemistrasse 100, Zurich, Switzerland 8091. Telephone: +41 44 255 3300; FAX: +41 44 255 4449; E-mail: clavien@access.uzh.ch

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