

# International Surgery and Ortho Conference

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## Mitra Mahdavi-Mazdeh

*Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran*

### The Iranian model of living renal transplantation


Organ shortage for transplantation remains a worldwide serious problem for kidney patients with end-stage renal failure, and several countries have tried different models to address this issue. Iran has 20 years of experience with one such model that involves the active role of the government and charity foundations. Patients with a desperate demand for a kidney have given rise to a black market of brokers and other forms of organ commercialism only accessible to those with sufficient financial resources. The current Iranian model has enabled most of the Iranian kidney transplant candidates, irrespective of socioeconomic class, to have access to kidney transplantation. The Iranian government has committed a large budget through funding hospital and staff at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education by supporting the Brain Death Donation (BDD) Program or redirecting part of the budget of living unrelated renal donation (LURD) to the BDD program. It

has been shown that it did not prevent the development and progression of a BDD program. However, the LURD program is characterized by several controversial procedures (e.g., confrontation of donor and recipient at the end of the evaluation procedure along with some financial interactions) that should be ethically reviewed. Operational weaknesses such as the lack of a registration system and long-term follow-up of the donors are identified as the 'Achilles heel of the model'.

#### Speaker Biography

Mitra Mahdavi-Mazdeh is working as a Professor in the Division of Nephrology at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. She was the Director of Management Center of Transplantation and Special Diseases in Moh for two years (2005-2007). She has been the Director of Iranian Tissue Bank Research Center since 2007. Her major research interests lie in the epidemiologic features of RRT especially transplantation in developing countries.

e: [mmahdavi@tums.ac.ir](mailto:mmahdavi@tums.ac.ir)

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