

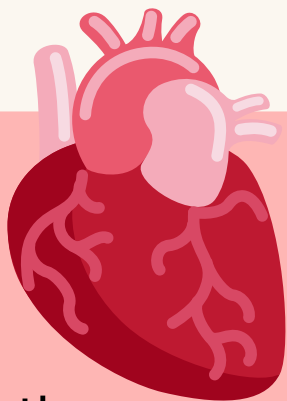
What is brain death?

Brain death occurs when the **blood flow and oxygen to the brain** have stopped, resulting in an irreversible loss of brain functions.

When the patient is certified brain dead, it means that there is an irreversible cessation of all functions of the brainstem. Such a patient will **never recover**.



Cardiac death



There are two ways that death is determined—Cardiac and Brain death. Cardiac death is the absence of heart contracting and pumping blood due to a disturbance in its electrical activity.

How is brain death certified?

Prior to brain death certification, the medical team will perform **thorough checks** to make sure that the clinical tests performed will be valid.

This includes checking for:

- Structural brain damage
- The absence of any neuromuscular blocking agents or drugs
- Any abnormal body functions that can interfere with brainstem testing

Brain death certification is performed by **two qualified independent** doctors who are not involved in the care of the patient or part of the transplant team. Patients **must meet all strict clinical criteria** as confirmed by both doctors, before brain death can be certified.

What happens after brain death is certified?

Organ donation is a **possibility** after the patient is certified brain dead. Assessments will be done to determine if the organs are suitable for donation.

Organ donation will only proceed if the organs are **assessed as suitable** and if there is **a matching recipient** to receive the organ.

HOTA and brain death



Under the Human Organ Transplant Act, every Singaporean and Permanent Resident aged 21 and above may have their heart, liver, kidneys and corneas donated in the event of death unless they have opted out.

The deceased must be certified brain dead before retrieval of organs can proceed.

Have you decided whether you want to donate your organs after you pass? Pledge to speak about it with your family now.

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