

The Hierarchy of Evidence

The Hierarchy of evidence is based on summaries from the National Health and Medical Research Council (2009), the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Levels of Evidence (2011) and Melynyk and Fineout-Overholt (2011).

- I Evidence obtained from a systematic review of all relevant randomised control trials.
- II Evidence obtained from at least one well designed randomised control trial.
- III Evidence obtained from well-designed controlled trials without randomisation.
- IV Evidence obtained from well designed cohort studies, case control studies, interrupted time series with a control group, historically controlled studies, interrupted time series without a control group or with case- series
- V Evidence obtained from systematic reviews of descriptive and qualitative studies
- VI Evidence obtained from single descriptive and qualitative studies
- VII Expert opinion from clinicians, authorities and/or reports of expert committees or based on physiology

Melynyk, B. & Fineout-Overholt, E. (2011). *Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare: A guide to best practice (2nd ed.)*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

National Health and Medical Research Council (2009). *NHMRC levels of evidence and grades for recommendations for developers of guidelines* (2009). Australian Government: NHMRC.
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/file/guidelines/evidence_statement_form.pdf

OCEBM Levels of Evidence Working Group Oxford (2011). *The Oxford 2011 Levels of Evidence*. Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. <http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=1025>

Reference (include title, author, journal title, year of publication, volume and issue, pages)	Evidence level (I-VII)	Key findings, outcomes or recommendations
Vorstius Kruijff, P. E., Jansen, N. E., Muijtens, B. S., M., Bloksingerling, J., Tecklenburg, B. D., . . . Slappendel, R. (2014). Are all tissue donors recognised? A cohort study in three dutch hospitals. <i>Cell and Tissue Banking</i> , 15(3), 483-90. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10561-013-9418-5	III	In this study, physicians were found to not recognize 25% of potential donors. Increasing education and awareness of tissue donation is required to prevent this.
Caramiciu, J.A., Adams, J.P., McKown, B.T., French, C.D., Ruggieri, E.R., & Heard, S.O. (2014). 'Effects of an in-house coordinator and practitioner referral rather than proxy referral on tissue donation rates', <i>Transplantation Proceedings</i> , 46, 5, pp. 1274-1280	IV	There was an increase of tissue referrals from 48% to 72% by implementing an in-house coordinator. This highlights the benefits of having a person based in a hospital who can support and facilitate tissue referrals.
Hogan, Nancy S,R.N., PhD., Coolican, Maggie, RN,M.S., F.T. & Schmidt, Lee A,R.N., PhD. 2013, "Making meaning in the legacy of tissue donation for donor families", <i>Progress in Transplantation</i> , vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 180-7	IV	This study shows that the reasons for donating were often linked to honoring the legacy of their loved one and believing that something good came from the death. Important to understand why people donate tissues.
Ashkenazi, T, & Cohen, J. 2015. 'Interactions between health care personnel and parents approach to organ and/or tissue donation: influences on parents' adjustment to loss, <i>Progress in Transplantation</i> , 25, 2, pp. 124-130	V	Donation was linked to a positive experience in the hospital and increased satisfaction with the separation process. Donation was also linked to less grief and better personal growth.
Hermann, K.C., Pagnussato, F., Franke, C.A., & de Oliveira, M.L.B. (2014). 'Reason for family refusal of ocular tissue donation', <i>Transplantation Proceedings</i> , 46, 6, pp. 1669-1671	V	Importance of knowledge and education for families to consent to eye donation. Also importance of communicating with families re: eye donation
Luo, J., Rothnie, A., Sanderson, E., Smith, Melissa, RN,B.NsgSc, GradDipC.C., Cowie, A., R.N., & Musiello, Toni,M.S.C., D.Phil. (2013). Families' knowledge, attitudes, and experiences of the tissue donation process. <i>Progress in Transplantation</i> , 23(3), 265-71. Retrieved from http://search.proquest.com/docview/1561057241?accountid=48400	V	Cross-sectional survey of families who were contacted about tissue donation. Overall they rated the experience of donating tissue as being a positive one. They also found that 46% of respondents supported the use of tissue for research, which is something we could consider discussing with the tissue bank when referring patients.

