

## Promoting Organ Transplantation in Japan

Organ transplantation is a life-saving treatment, but in Japan many patients cannot receive surgery because of the serious shortage of donors. Therefore, this study examines the current situation of organ transplantation in Japan and suggests ways to increase the number of donors.

Today, about 16,000 people in Japan hope to receive organ transplants, yet only around 600 surgeries are performed each year. As a result, some patients travel abroad for treatment, which requires high costs and long preparation times. Many patients become too sick or die while waiting. Although Japan's medical technology and survival rates are as good as those of other countries, the number of donors is extremely small, leading to long waiting times.

To solve this problem, two solutions are proposed. First, education in schools can raise awareness of organ donation. Because Japanese people tend to value harmony and group behavior, learning and discussing organ transplantation together may encourage more students to express their willingness to donate. Early education can also help young people think about the importance of life.

Second, Japan can learn from South Korea's notification system. In South Korea, hospitals must explain organ donation to families and contact a transplant organization when brain death is suspected. In Japan, such explanations are not required, so many families never consider donation. Making this process mandatory would give families more opportunities to decide and could increase the number of donors.

In conclusion, by improving education and hospital systems, Japan can increase organ donation and save more lives. In the future, it will also be important to provide better support for patients after transplantation.