



## Hindu Dharma and organ donation

There are many references that support the concept of organ donation in Hindu scriptures. Daan is the original word in Sanskrit for donation meaning selfless giving. In the list of the ten Niyamas (virtuous acts) Daan comes third.

"Of all the things that it is possible to donate, to donate your own body is infinitely more worthwhile. "

The Manusmriti

"In the joys of others lies our own."

His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha

Life after death is a strong belief of Hindus and is an ongoing process of rebirth. The law of Karma decides which way the soul will go in the next life. The Bhagavad Gita describes the mortal body and the immortal soul in a simple way like the relationship of clothes to a body:

**"vasamsi jirnani yatha vihaya ,navani grhnati naro 'parani  
tatha sarirani vihaya jirnany, anyani samyati navandi dehi."**

"As a person puts on new garments, giving up the old ones  
the soul similarly accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones."

### **Bhagavad Gita chapter 2:22**

Scientific and medical treatises (Charaka and Sushruta Samhita) form an important part of the Vedas. Sage Charaka deals with internal medicine while Sage Sushruta includes features of organ and limb transplants.

"Organ donation is in keeping with Hindu beliefs as it can help to save the life of others." The Late Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE, President, National Council of Hindu Temples UK

"I always carry my donor card with me. It says that my whole body can be used for organ donation and medical purposes after my death. I would like to encourage as many people as possible to do the same." The Late Dr Bal Mukund Bhala, Co-ordinator Hindu International Medical Mission, Former President Hindu Council UK

"I believe in organ donation. If my body can help someone else live a better quality of life after my soul has vacated it then it is good Seva." Mr Arjan Vekaria JP, President Hindu Forum of Britain

Information on Hinduism is available from: [www.bbc.co.uk/religion](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion)