

**Oral Presentation Abstract: O7**

**Title:**

Sweating the small stuff - Starting a dialogue about communication, ethics and transplant in Gauteng

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Cadaveric organ transplantation is unique in that, for a transplant to take place, a large amount of multi-disciplinary communication is required within a limited time frame - depending on the ischemic time of donor organs. The consequences of a break-down in this communication can be very serious. Given time limitations, effective interprofessional communication facilitates ethical transplant practice, by avoiding delays which potentially compromise patient outcomes and are in neither the best interests of the donor family nor the potential recipient.

As part of the author’s PhD research, semi-structured, in-depth interviews were undertaken with 35 transplant professionals in Johannesburg, South Africa, as well as one focus group with transplant coordinators. Data was transcribed and analysed using thematic analysis techniques.

Participants felt strongly that, under significant time pressure, it was still vitally important to communicate detail, as this served to avoid misunderstandings amongst the team and disappointment amongst potential recipients. Lack of detail hindered the process of decision-making regarding the transplant, and resulted in confusion which in some cases directly affected recipient outcomes. Donor teams found this situation particularly complex, as much of their transplant activity took place in unfamiliar hospitals, where they did not have an established network of pro-transplant healthcare staff to assist. It was suggested that staff were sometimes unwilling to perform transplant-related duties timorously and unwilling to provide detailed and useful reports of their clinical findings.

It is recommended that multi-disciplinary transplant teams evaluate the detail in their communications, and consider making use of a communication algorithm to augment this process, hence facilitating more effective interprofessional communication, in the best interests of recipient and donor family.