

Brain Death Controversies

David M. Greer MD, MA
Department of Neurology
Boston University School of Medicine



DISCLOSURES

- I receive research support as PI of R01NS102574-01A1
- I receive research support from Becton Dickinson, Inc. for the INTREPID Study (NCT02996266)
- I serve as editor-in-chief for *Seminars in Neurology*

Learning Objectives

- Understand the controversy surrounding variability in brain death determination worldwide
- Explore the controversy of “brainstem” vs. “whole brain” death
- Explore the controversy of modern ancillary testing for brain death determination

Key Message:

- Brain death determination continues to have lingering controversies, all of which need to be addressed in order to ensure sound policies and practice, as well as to maintain the public's trust in the process.

Key References

- Greer DM et al. Determination of brain death / death by neurologic criteria around the world: The World Brain Death Project. *JAMA* 202 Sep 15;324(11):1078-1097.
- Wijdicks EFM, Varelas PN, Gronseth GS, Greer DM. Evidence-based guideline update: Determining brain death in adults: Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology* 2010;74(23):1911-18.
- Lewis A et al. Determination of death by neurologic criteria around the world. *Neurology* 2020 Jul 21;95(3):e299-e309.