

Mobile Organ Retrieval Centre: A New Hope for Organ Failure Patients in India -Rtn Lal Goel

The Critical Challenge of Organ Donation in India

India faces a critical challenge in organ donation and transplantation. With only 15-16% of Revenue Districts having Organ Retrieval and Transplant Centres, millions of patients suffering from organ failure are left with limited hope. The disparity in medical infrastructure across the country has created a significant barrier to accessing life-saving organ transplants, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

Introducing Mobile Organ Retrieval Centres (MORC): A Transformative Solution

The proposed Mobile Organ Retrieval Centre (MORC) represents a groundbreaking approach to addressing the organ donation deficit. This innovative model aims to establish approximately 150 mobile centres strategically positioned across the country, each designed to cover 3-4 Revenue Districts. The primary objective is to bridge the gap in organ retrieval infrastructure and create a more accessible, efficient organ donation ecosystem.

Key Features of Mobile Organ Retrieval Centres

1. Advanced Mobile Infrastructure

Each MORC will be equipped with an ultra-modern Operation Theatre specifically designed for organ retrieval procedures. The

mobile units will be fully prepared with state-of-the-art medical equipment, ensuring that critical organ harvesting can be performed with the highest standards of medical precision and safety.

2. Strategic Positioning and Rapid Response

Leveraging India's expanding highway network, these mobile centres will be positioned to reach any location within their designated district cluster in a maximum of 3-4 hours. This rapid response capability is crucial in organ retrieval, where time is of the essence.

3. Comprehensive Medical Team Approach

The MORC model involves a collaborative approach between local hospital staff and specialised medical teams from nearby Organ Retrieval and Transplant Centres. Local medical and paramedical personnel will be trained to assist in organ harvesting procedures, working in conjunction with expert teams from specialised centres.

Implementing the MORC Framework

Institutional and Administrative Support

1. Brain-Dead Declaration Committee

Each Revenue District covered by a MORC will establish a dedicated Brain-Dead Declaration Committee. This committee plays a crucial role in identifying and



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officially declaring potential organ donors, ensuring a standardised and transparent process.

2. Administrative Coordination

Local administration will be actively engaged to create "green corridors" – dedicated, unobstructed routes that facilitate the rapid and safe transfer of retrieved organs to transplant centres. This coordination is vital to minimising transit time and preserving organ viability.

Economic and Infrastructure Considerations

The estimated cost of establishing each Mobile Organ Retrieval Centre is between 10-15 million Indian Rupees. While this may seem significant, the potential impact on saving lives and addressing the organ donation shortage makes it a worthwhile investment in healthcare infrastructure.

Potential Impact and Future Prospects

The MORC model has the potential to dramatically transform the organ donation landscape in India. By bringing advanced medical capabilities closer to underserved regions, it addresses several critical challenges:

- ♦ Reducing geographical barriers to

organ retrieval

- ♦ Minimising time-critical challenges in organ transportation

- ♦ Providing standardised training to local medical personnel

- ♦ Creating a more equitable healthcare ecosystem

Conclusion

Mobile Organ Retrieval Centres represent more than just a medical innovation; they symbolise thousands of patients awaiting life-saving organ transplants. By reimagining organ retrieval infrastructure, India can take a significant step towards addressing the organ donation deficit and saving countless lives.

As the country continues to develop its medical infrastructure, the MORC model stands as a testament to innovative thinking in healthcare – bringing advanced medical capabilities to those who need them most, regardless of their geographical location.

Note: The implementation of Mobile Organ Retrieval Centres will require collaborative efforts from medical professionals, government bodies, healthcare administrators, and non-government organisations to ensure successful execution and maximum impact.

About the Author

Rtn Lal Goel is a visionary leader and a driving force in Organ Donation advocacy. As Charter President of the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International and Chairman of the Organ Donation India Foundation & GYAN, he has been pivotal in raising awareness about Organ Donation across India. He serves on the National Committee for the National Campaign for Body-Organ Donation (NCBOD) and has been recognised globally for his efforts. He is the ex-officio member of the Karnataka SOTTO advisory committee. His accolades include the Rajiv Gandhi Businessman of the Year Award, Tyag Murti Mata Ramai Ambedkar Samman, Icons of India Award, World Parliament International Award and the White Coat Ceremony honour by Donate Life, USA. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Mangalore University awarded him the distinguished title of One in Millions.