

## Brain death, states of impaired consciousness, and physician-assisted death for end-of-life organ donation and transplantation

Joseph L. Verheijde · Mohamed Y. Rady ·  
Joan L. McGregor

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Unfortunately, we were made aware of an error in the text below the heading *Religion and physician-assisted death in organ procurement* right column, we wrote: “Although Pope Pius XII declared that.....” In fact, it was Pope John Paul II who made this remark. The line should read:

Although Pope John Paul II declared that rigorously applying the criteria for ascertaining brain death suffices

for arriving with moral certitude at the conclusion that death has occurred, Pope Benedict XVI has asked that the debate on brain death and organ procurement be revived (Shea 2007; Timesonline 2008). Pope Benedict XVI stated that vital organs can be extracted “*ex cadavere*” [from a dead body], if and only if, the donor’s true death can be certified beyond a doubt (Pope Benedict XVI 2008).

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J. L. Verheijde · M. Y. Rady  
Bioethics, Policy, and Law Program, Arizona State University,  
300 East University Drive, Tempe, AZ 85287, USA  
e-mail: [jverheijde@mayo.edu](mailto:jverheijde@mayo.edu)

J. L. Verheijde  
Department of Biomedical Ethics, Mayo Clinic Hospital, Mayo  
Clinic Arizona, 5777 East Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix, AZ 85054,  
USA

J. L. Verheijde  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mayo  
Clinic Hospital, Mayo Clinic Arizona, 5777 East Mayo  
Boulevard, Phoenix, AZ 85054, USA

M. Y. Rady (✉)  
Department of Critical Care Medicine, Mayo Clinic Hospital,  
Mayo Clinic Arizona, 5777 East Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix,  
AZ 85054, USA  
e-mail: [Rady.Mohamed@mayo.edu](mailto:Rady.Mohamed@mayo.edu)

J. L. McGregor  
Department of Philosophy, Arizona State University,  
300 East University Drive, Tempe, AZ 85287, USA  
e-mail: [joan.mcgregor@asu.edu](mailto:joan.mcgregor@asu.edu)