

Brainstem death

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- This is defined as the irreversible loss of cerebral and brainstem function. Brainstem death is legally equivalent to death, and is a precondition for the harvesting of organs for transplant from heart-beating donors. /uni25CF identification of the cause of irreversible coma; /uni25CF exclusion of reversible causes of coma; /uni25CF clinical demonstration of the absence of brainstem function. In the UK, this entails testing twice, by two clinicians, to demonstrate the absence of: /uni25CF response to pain; /uni25CF respiratory drive (apnoea despite a $P_{CO_2} > 6.7$ kPa); 2 /uni25CF pupillary light reflex; /uni25CF corneal reflex; /uni25CF vestibulo-ocular reflex; /uni25CF oculoccephalic reflex; /uni25CF gag reflex. Greenberg MS. Handbook of neurosurgery, 9th edn. New York, NY: Thieme, 2019. Patton J. Neurological differential diagnosis, 2nd edn. New York, NY: - Springer, 1998. Samandouras G. The neurosurgeon's handbook. Oxford: Oxford Publishing, 2010.

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