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Brain-dead and alive?

In response to "Brain-dead woman who gave birth to preemie still alive" (October 24):

This article is problematic for two reasons. First, it is a mistaken translation. The Hebrew headline properly translated into English would have read "42-year-old woman who gave birth is brain-dead." Second, this mistaken translation misleads the Israeli public into thinking that a person who is brain-dead can remain alive.

While it is possible to support organs (even a beating heart) for a number of days after the onset of brain death, the organism – the human being – is dead. This is the position of the Israel Medical Association and it is Israeli law. The mistaken belief that a brain-dead person is somehow alive is what prevents Israelis from donating organs, contributing to the dearth of organ donors in Israel.

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