APNEA TEST TO CONFIRM BRAIN DEATH

- Normalize PCO$_2$ to 35-45 mm Hg
- Pre-oxygenate patient with 100% FiO$_2$ for 30 minutes
- Obtain baseline ABG
- Disconnect the ventilator
- Provide 100% O$_2$ via tracheal cannula at the level of the carina at 6L/min
- Observe for spontaneous respiration
- Obtain ABG after 10 minutes
- Reconnect the ventilator
- If PCO$_2$ ≥ 60 mm Hg (or ≥ 20 mm Hg rise from normal baseline) and no spontaneous respiration, apnea is confirmed
- If hypotension and/or arrhythmia develops, draw ABG, reconnect the ventilator and consider other confirmatory tests

Donor Hotline: 800/545-GIFT (4438)
THE BRAIN DEATH NOTE MUST INCLUDE:

• Date and time
• Definitive statement of death, such as “patient is brain dead” or “patient declared dead”
• Documentation of clinical exam and clinical findings of brain death
• Physician’s signature

Note: Hospital policy may require confirmatory testing; these results must also be included in the brain death note.

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