

Brain death determination

<https://n.neurology.org/content/74/23/1911>

The following pitfalls may complicate the determination of [brain death](#):

- Movement of body parts after brain death. Movements are sometimes complex in nature and may occur as long as 32 hours after brain death. Many are mediated by spinal cord discharges as it undergoes cell death. Documented observations include facial movements, finger tremors, repetitive leg movements, and even sitting up. These movements are often repetitive, usually stereotypical, and do not change with changing stimuli.
- The appearance of breathing. This typically occurs with a [ventilator](#) that is set to trigger on detecting respiratory effort. Ventilators may be sensing air movement created by the transmission of arterial pulses of the great vessels to the [lung](#) or actions of a chest tube.

Brain death criteria

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The World Brain Death Project

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