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Surgeons harvesting organs from 'deceased' patient stop after discovering he wasn't completely brain dead

- Surgeons began operating to remove organs of a 'deceased' German man
- They had already made an incision in his stomach when they realised that he was not brain dead according to medical regulations
- The German Medical Association is now set to investigate the case

By LIZZIE PARRY FOR MAILONLINE

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Surgeons were forced to stop operating on a 'deceased' patient after discovering he was not brain dead.

Doctors at a hospital in the Bremen area of Germany realised their patient was still technically alive after making an incision into his stomach.

The team were due to harvest the man's organs for donation.

But the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper reports the operation was stopped as soon as the surgeons discovered their patient was not brain dead according to medical regulations.

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Surgeons operating to remove organs from a 'deceased' patient were forced to stop after discovering the man was not brain dead, according to medical regulations (file picture)

An insider told the paper: 'It is quite possible that the man's brain was so damaged that he would not have been able to return to a normal life, but as long as he was not properly diagnosed as brain dead, nobody knows'.

The German Medical Association is set to review the incident to determine what happened, [the Local](#) reported.

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Axel Rumia, director of the German Foundation for Organ Transplants, which reviews the accuracy of brain death diagnoses before organ donation, said the case it is of 'particular concern' that the diagnosis of brain death is 'performed with knowledge of medical science'.

The GMA is also expected to investigate how doctors handled the discovery.

Documents are said to state the operation was terminated due to the patient suffering cardiovascular failure.

But investigators are now tasked with finding out if the patient's heart stopped by chance, or as a result of doctors changing oxygen levels when they discovered he may not be brain dead.



The German Medical Association is set to investigate the incident, which happened at a hospital in the Bremen area of Germany

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