
第6講 演習問題

次の英文を読んで、以下の設問に答えよ。

Natural and inevitable (1) it may be, death confuses us nowadays. All too often, dying seems like a mysterious process full of difficult decisions, like the dilemma Michele Finn faced after she decided to have her severely brain-damaged husband's feeding tube withdrawn, allowing him to die.

5 So complex and painful are the medical and *ethical questions surrounding such an event (2) it is easy to overlook the fact that, until recently, we had a single, simple medical understanding of death: we accepted that people died when their hearts stopped beating and they stopped breathing. It is the absence of those signs that doctors still use to decide death about 90 percent of the time in hospitals today.

10 Over the past 30 years, though, medical advances have ⁽¹⁾undermined this simple understanding and forced physicians to look beyond the heart for an additional means of defining the end of life.

(3) that doctors are able to keep a patient's heart beating mechanically or replace a damaged heart with a new one, we have turned to the brain as a place to
15 decide death. The brain cannot be *transplanted or replaced by any machine; without a working brain, people cannot breathe or maintain their blood pressure; they also lose the ⁽²⁾traits that we commonly associate with humanness, such as their ability to communicate, as (4) as any awareness of their surroundings.

Although widely accepted in medical practice, the concept of brain death has
20 ⁽³⁾spawned a host of medical, legal, ethical and philosophical debates, and recently has come under attack by various religious and political groups. Some say that defining death should not be left to physicians, that the death of the brain is not the same as the death of a person; others resist any definition of death that is based on science and technology.

25 The first (5) had come in the late '50s with the invention of life-support machines that could keep the heart beating. According to the traditional way of thinking about death, patients who are supported by this kind of machine are still alive — their hearts still pump blood through their bodies — but they cannot recover