Introduction:
Insufficient identification of possible organ donors in the ICU is one of the main factors contributing to the loss of donors after brain death [1]. Up to 50% of potential donors might not be identified [2]. The aim of this study was to evaluate how active search of possible brain dead donors affect the potential deceased donor pool.

Methods:
The strategy implemented at university hospital with 5 specialized ICUs from December 2016 to October 2017 and data compared to the matching period of the previous year. Donor coordinator visited all ICUs every day and selected patients who met possible brain dead donor criteria: 1) GCS ≤ 5; 2) severe brain injury. All data registered in original color coded follow-up system according to the patient status.

Results:
A total of 237 patients were identified as possible donors. There was no significant difference of potential donor numbers in study period comparing to previous year (32 vs 31). Main causes of brain death remain intracranial hemorrhage and subarachnoid hemorrhage. The length of hospital stay of potential donors was significantly longer in study period comparing to previous year (4±4,86 vs 2,29±2,2, α=0,004). There was no significant difference of donor’s demographic data, conversion rates to actual donor or frequency of family refusals and medical contraindications.

Conclusion:
Active search of brain dead donors neither increased total number of potential donors nor increased conversion rates and did not change a donor profile in our donor center. Longer observational period and more sophisticated follow-up system might be required.

References: