

## The girl who wouldn't die: Incredible story of the 19-year-old who woke up as doctors were preparing to harvest her organs

Site  
 Web

- Carina Melchior was in a coma and was not expected to wake up
- Doctors at the Danish hospital had started preparing her for organ donations and the family agreed for life support to be switched off
- Less than 24 hours after the breathing equipment was turned off, Carina opened her eyes
- Her parents are now suing the hospital for damages

By [SARA MALM](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 11:05 EDT, 17 October 2012 | **UPDATED:** 05:34 EDT, 18 October 2012

75

[View comments](#)

A teenage girl in a coma after a catastrophic car crash came round just as doctors were about to declare her brain dead.

Carina Melchior had had life support withdrawn on the advice of medics and was being prepared for organ donation.

But to the astonishment of staff at the Aarhus Hospital, in Denmark, the 19-year-old suddenly opened her eyes and started moving her legs.

**Scroll down for video**



**Miracle: Doctors had turned off the life support machines when Carina Melchior woke up from her coma**

She is now making a good recovery at a rehabilitation centre and is able to walk, talk and even ride her horse Mathilde.

Her family is now suing the hospital for damages, claiming that doctors had been desperate to harvest her body parts.

**SHARE THIS ARTICLE**

**RELATED ARTICLES**



**Schoolboy, 14, stuns medics by fighting back from brink of...**



**Lazarus Syndrome: Or how - as one British woman's just...**

Like Daily

Follo' @Dai

Follo' Daily

+1 Daily

**FEMAIL**

► **New roma  
Charlize Th  
'dating' Ha  
Berry's ex  
Aubry as tl  
are spotter**

'Those bandits in white coats gave up too quickly because they wanted an organ donor,' her father Kim told the Danish newspaper Ekstra Bladet.

The family's lawyer Nils Fjeldberg said that Ms Melchior keeps asking if doctors were trying to kill her.

'Of course this is a great trauma, both for her and her parents who were convinced that there was nothing else that could be done and agreed to donate her organs,' he told the newspaper.



**Hospitalised: When her brain activity began to fade, doctors believed there was very little chance of survival, and if she ever was to recover, she would be in a persistent vegetative state**

Ms Melchior, now 20, crashed her car in October last year.

She was in hospital for three days before doctors realised her brain activity was fading and consulted her family about stopping treatment.

It was at this point they agreed to donate her organs.

In a documentary about her life called 'The girl who wouldn't die', Carina says she is convinced she will recover and that hopes to move in to her own flat in the future.

'And I will be working as a graphic designer and be able to ride Mathilde properly,' she said.

**laughing n beach**  
Spotted tog

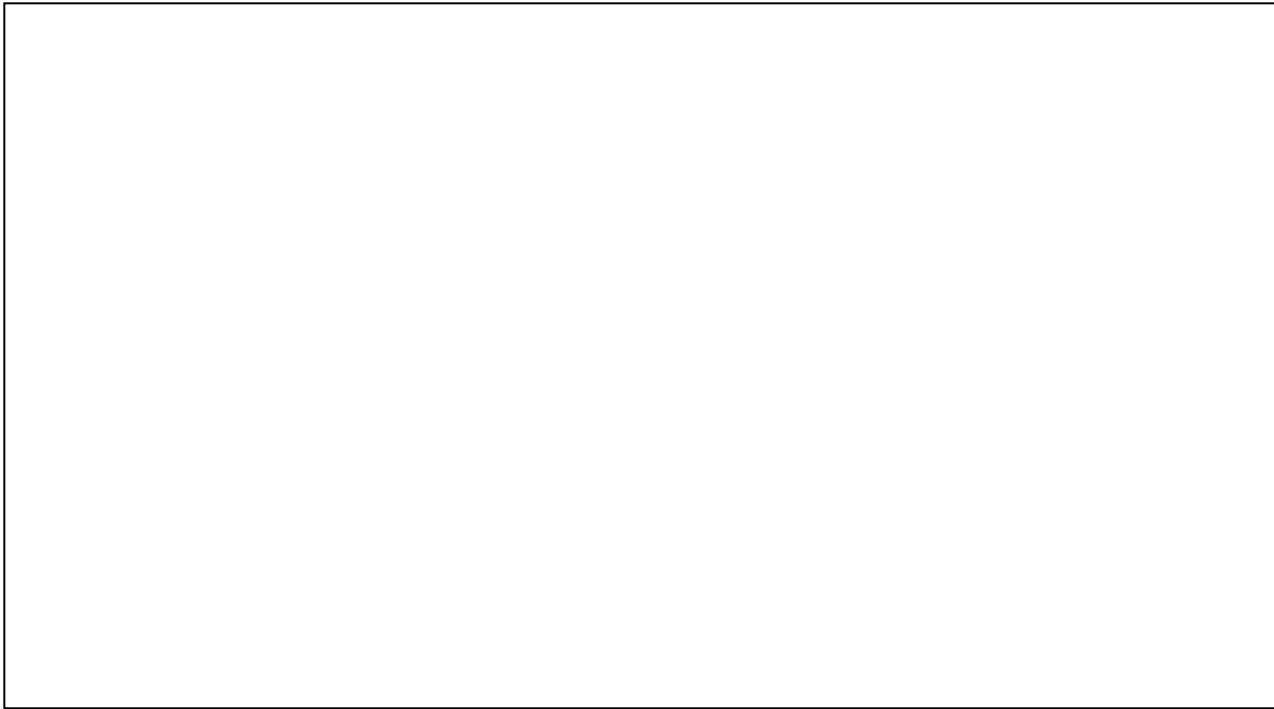
▶ **In bloom! Holmes high her figure i beaded wh for the Frag Awards**  
Hit the carp fitted white with colorfu beading

▶ **Sun's out out! Johnn Manziel's f Bre Tiesi s along beac Miami in st nude bikini**  
She showec bikini body beach

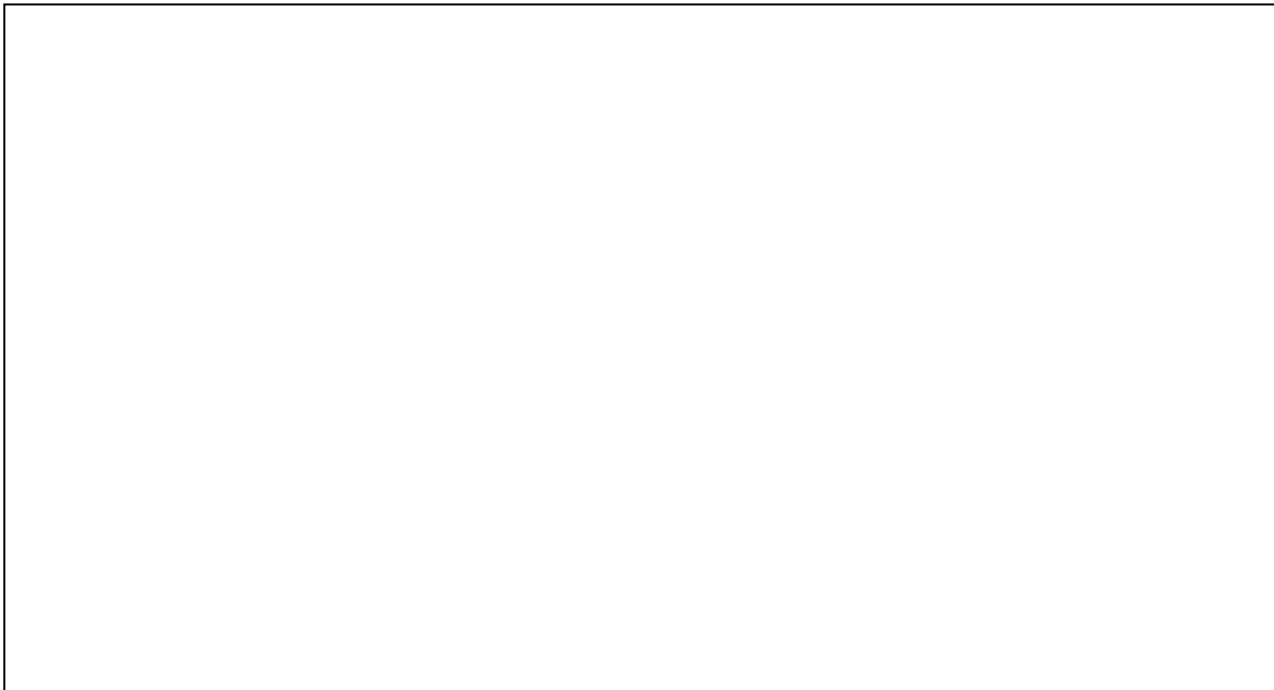
▶ **'I'm a victi Bachelor in Paradise's Olympios I high-power Hollywood to get 'just 'blackout' hook-up wi DeMario**

▶ **The Fat Jo causes a s NYC as he celebrates Rosé Day parade of g singers an wine bottle SPONSOR**

▶ **EXCLUSI was sitting pool and C put her p\*\* face.' Frien Bachelor in Paradise's says Olym the aggres**



**No hope: After speaking to her parents it was decided that the apparatus which kept her breathing was to be turned off and organ donation was prepared**



**Awake: The family had already said goodbye when the hospital called and said Carina had opened her eyes**

The case has sparked a public debate in Denmark about donations and end-of-life treatments, with registered donors withdrawing consent in fear of doctors acting too quickly.

The Danish government is drawing up new guidelines to prevent doctors from making preparations to remove organs until the patient is officially declared clinically dead.

▶ **'His face i heart': Rya and fiancé Rae Reid p picture of b Caiden Zar she reveals endured 26 labor**

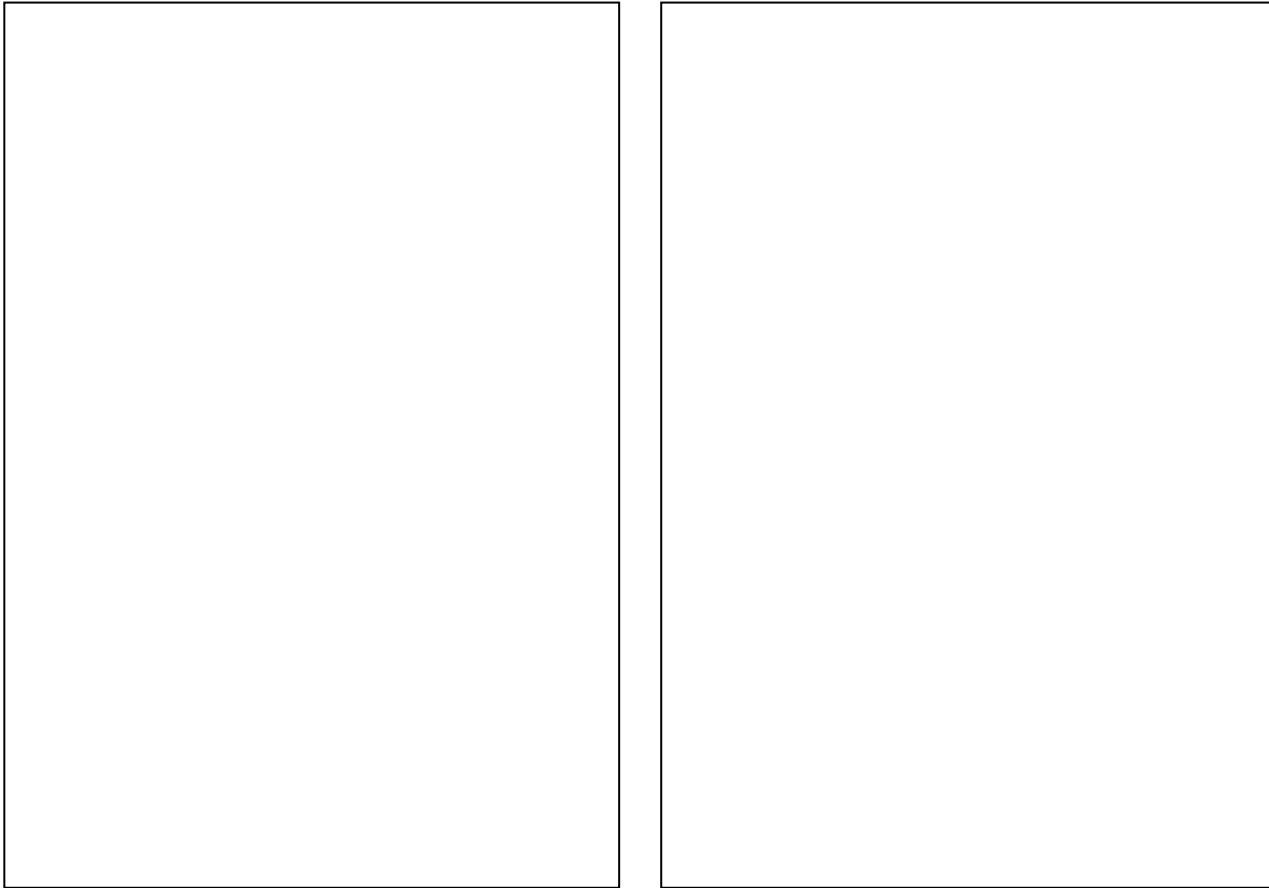
▶ **Feeling th Ariel Winte skintight c and tiny pr shorts as s steps out v boyfriend l Meaden**  
Dressed for heat

▶ **A bella bombshell Kardashiar off her curv tight black dress that low-cut and short as sh Italian rest**

▶ **Khloe Kar wells up wi emotion rememberi beloved fat Robert Kar Sr. on Holly Medium**  
He died of c

▶ **Elsa Hosk in little bla with sheer The Fragra Foundation in New Yor**  
The 28-yea Swedish mc stunned in a

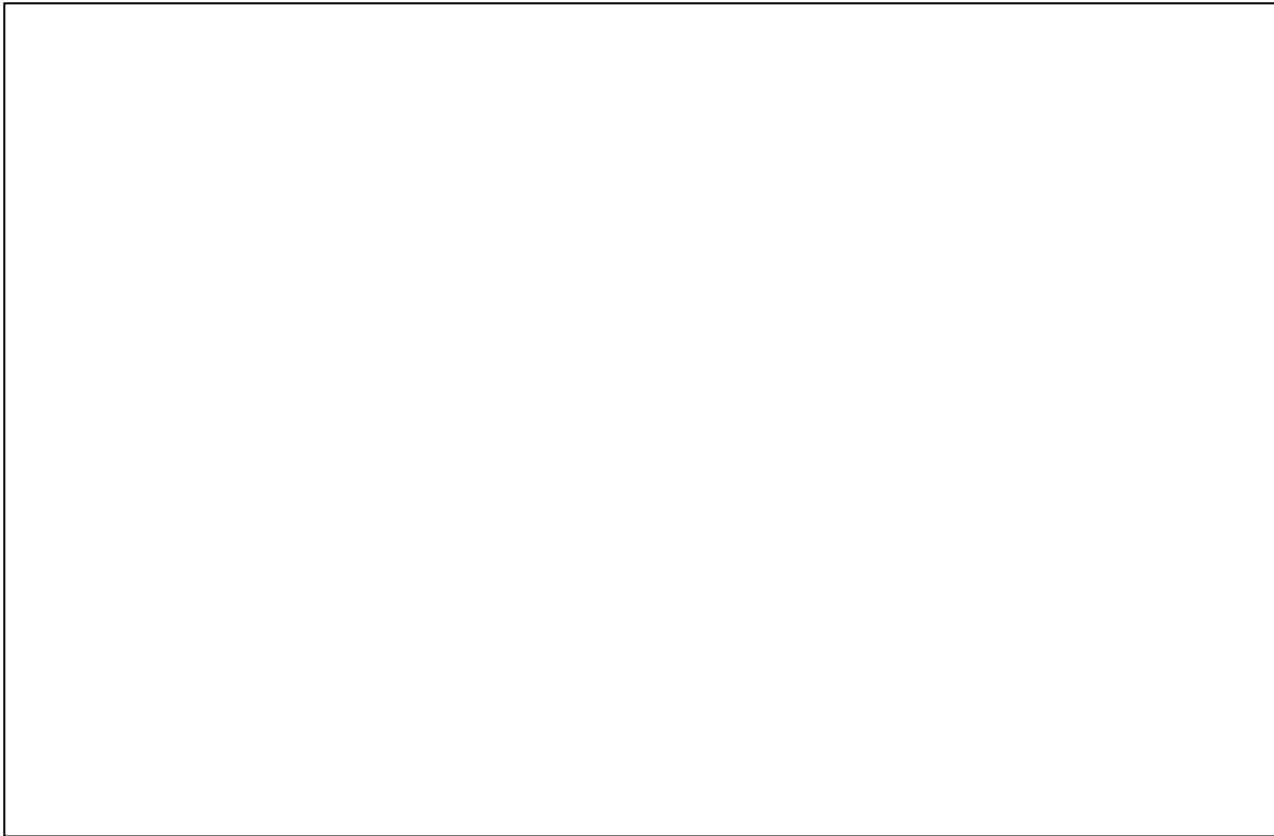
However, medical experts say the preparations made before a patient is declared brain dead are vital to ensure that correct matches are made between organ donors and receivers.



**Before: Photographs of Carina aged 19, before the horrific car accident in October 2011**

▶ **Low-key Jennifer H**  
**Jennifer H**  
**arrives in S**  
**Australia w**  
**trackpants**  
**and sneaks**  
Will appear  
Voice Austr  
show

▶ **Taking the**  
**plunge! La**  
**Ribeiro doi**  
**cleavage-b**  
**glistening**  
**ensemble t**  
**Fragrance**  
**Foundatio**  
She was a l  
on Wednes



**Accident: Carina was driving her car in October last year when she came off the road and flipped her car**

One Danish doctor who spoke to MailOnline said it was an unfortunate case of miscommunication between Carina's family and the doctors at Aarhus.

'The story says a lot about the importance of communication in a doctor-patient relationship,' the doctor said. 'If the doctors had expressed themselves differently, the parents would not have felt so maltreated.'

'From a medical point of view, no mistakes have been made. The girl was never declared brain-dead, that was never the case.'

'In fact, the doctors saved her life with the treatment they gave her.'

'And they were not going to 'take' her organs, it was merely a conversation about organ donation if she would become brain dead.'

The doctors at Aarhus hospital has apologised for the failures in communication during Carina's treatment and have said they made a mistake.

**VIDEO: Anna is now home cooking dinner with her family...**

Anna Melchior woke from a coma as doctors were about to harvest her

▶ 'The Lord will destroy you! So don't forget your sunscreen! Brad Pitt rethinks the hilarious pessimistic weatherman! The Jim Je... Show

▶ Well she could have a thin waistline! Musicians! Dunst doesn't lace sweatbands! Actor fiancé Plemons lu... guitar at ai...

▶ 'Who am I? The American guy?' Ryann Seacrest reveals he still might be up for ABC's reboot of his show 'Always love... show'

▶ 'They're just drumming drama': Lucretia D'Agostino NY fellow housewife 'totally unfaithful cheating ru... about husk... Tom

▶ Using lipstick to sell lipsticks! Jenner poses in sheer lace plug Lip Kit shade... but far from a... Shared to Instagram

Jennifer Lawrence's secrets revealed! Personal truths the star cre...

her 'delici  
healthy life  
how she go  
amazing sl



Media player controls including play, next, volume, and time (0:00 / 0:26). Social sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, and others.

I don't ha  
to miss the  
Pinkett Sm  
how she co  
with her en  
nest when  
16, and Jac  
are jetsetti  
work

Keeping i  
Jessica All  
sports beig  
and jeans a  
jets into Ne  
York... afte  
glamming i  
Planet Of T  
event

### Share or comment on this article

Sponsored Links by Taboola



**Extreme Breastfeeding:  
Parents Who Took It To The  
Limit**

Mumazine



**These Animals Completely  
Forgot They Were Animals**

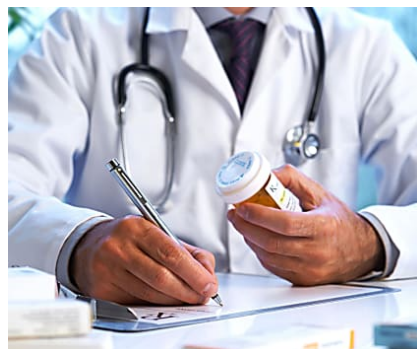
Lifestylogy



**15 Things You Didn't Know  
About Elon Musk**

By Alux.com

Advertisem



**Gastrointestinal Stromal**



**30 Crowd-Pleasing Cupcakes**



**Are These The Most Amazing,**