

Do you know...

- There are approximately 1.2 crore blind people in India.
- Of these around 20 lakh corneally blind are in need of corneal transplantation.
- As against an annual requirement of 75,000 to 1,00,000 corneas, only 22,000 corneas are donated in India at present.

What is corneal blindness?

Cornea, the main focussing part of the eye, is the clear front surface of the eye. Like a “window”, it allows light to enter the eye. Vision could be markedly reduced or lost if the cornea becomes “cloudy” or scarred. This condition is known as corneal blindness.

What are the causes of corneal blindness?

Injuries to the eye, birth defects, malnutrition, infections, chemical burns, congenital disorders and complications of eye surgery.

Who can donate eyes?

- Eye donors could be of any age group or sex.
- People who use spectacles-diabetics, patients with high blood pressure, asthma patients and those without communicable diseases can donate eyes.

Persons with AIDS, Hepatitis B and C, Rabies, Septicaemia, Acute leukemia (Blood cancer), Tetanus, Cholera, and infectious diseases like Meningitis and Encephalitis cannot donate eyes.

Your role in eye donation

By deciding to donate eyes, you give someone the most precious gift of “a chance to see”.

You can help by:

- Pledging your eyes and encourage your family members to donate as well
- Being a member of the eye donation centre
- Calling the nearest eye bank immediately when a death occurs in the family
- Motivating friends and relatives of the deceased to donate eyes
- Monetary support to the patient or to the Eye Bank.

Facts about eye donation

- Eyes can be donated **only after death**
- Eyes must be removed within **4 - 6 hours after death**
- Eyes can be removed by a Registered Medical Practitioner only.
- The eye bank team will remove the eyes **from the home of the deceased or from a hospital**
- Eye removal does not delay the funeral since the entire procedure takes 20-30 minutes only
- A small quantity of blood will be drawn to rule out communicable diseases
- Eye retrieval does not cause disfigurement
- Religions are for eye donation
- The identities of **both the donor and the recipient are kept confidential**

Important points

(to donate eyes, the following procedures should be done by the relatives of the deceased)

- **Close the eye lids of the deceased**
- **Switch off the fan**
- **Raise the head of the deceased slightly by placing a pillow underneath**
- **In the event of death contact the nearest eye bank as quickly as possible.**

- Give the **correct address with specific landmarks and telephone number** to enable the eye bank team locate the place easily
- If the death certificate from the physician is available, keep it ready
- Eye donation can be done only with the written consent of the next of kin in the presence of two witnesses

What happens after eye donation?

- The donor's family receives a certificate of appreciation from the eye bank
- The eyes are taken to the eye bank and evaluated by a trained eye bank staff
- Tests are carried out and the tissue is sent to the corneal surgeon
- The waiting list is referred and the recipient is called for corneal transplant
- Corneal transplant is performed
- Periodic follow-up of the recipient is done over time to ensure that the graft is successful

What is an eye bank?

An eye bank is a non-profitable social organisation managed by a Medical director, Administrator and Technicians. It collects, processes and distributes the donor cornea.

Functions of the eye bank

- Availability of trained staff round the clock to attend the calls
- Evaluate and provide quality corneas to corneal surgeons
- Enable corneal research using eyes unsuitable for grafts, to find newer techniques, improve preservation methods and train corneal surgeons
- Increase public awareness about eye donation and eye banking

- Train doctors in eye removal procedures
- Develop and establish a network of eye donation centres

List of eye banks in Tamil Nadu with address and telephone numbers

Madurai

1. Rotary-Aravind International Eye Bank
Aravind Eye Hospital & Postgraduate Institute of Ophthalmology
1, Anna Nagar, Madurai 625 020.
Phone: 0452-5356100 (5 Lines)
2. Madurai Medical College, Madurai, Phone: 0452-2532539

Tirunelveli

1. Aravind Eye Hospital, 1, S.N. High Road,
Tirunelveli Jn.-627 001; Phone: 0462-2337103.

Coimbatore

1. Aravind Eye Hospital, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore,
Phone: 0422-2578901 (5 Lines)
2. Coimbatore Eye Bank, M.G. Eye Hospital,
Coimbatore 641 001. Phone: 0422-2397274
3. K.G. Eye Hospital Eye Bank, Arts College Road,
Coimbatore 641 018, Phone: 0422-2212121
4. Sankara Eye Society Eye Bank, R.S. Puram,
Coimbatore 641 002, Phone: 0422-2666450

Chennai

1. Sankara Netralaya Eye Bank, 18 College Road,
Chennai 600 006, Phone: 044-28271616
2. Government Ophthalmic Hospital,
Chennai-600 008 Phone: 28554540
3. Lions Eye Bank Trust, Chennai. Phone: 044-
28553840
4. Agarwal Eye Institute and Research Center,
Chennai, Phone: 044-28273704

Trichy

1. Joseph Eye Hospital, Trichy, Phone: 0431-2462275
2. A.G. Eye Hospital, Trichy Phone: 0431-2766101

Vellore

1. Schell Eye Hospital, Christian Medical College,
Vellore, Phone: 041-6232921

Say Yes to Eye Donation!

Eye Donation shows your responsibility to society as a caring, committed citizen.

Your attitude makes a world of difference . . .

Your decision offers a vision of hope.

**DONATE YOUR EYES AND
GIVE SOMEONE THE GIFT OF SIGHT**



Rotary-Aravind International Eye Bank
MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF EYE BANKS
(MEMBER EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF INDIA)

Aravind Eye Hospital & Postgraduate Institute of Ophthalmology
1, Anna Nagar, Madurai - 625 020, Tamil Nadu, India
Phone: 0452-535 6100, Fax: 91-452-530 984
Email: eyebank@aravind.org

www.aravind.org

Eye Donation and You

Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank