

CORNEA DONATION ISSUES

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INTRODUCTION/HISTORY – IN BRIEF

- In Nepal, only one functioning eye bank
- 2nd eye bank service, in near future in LEI

Corneal transplantation in LEI

- 1st corneal graft in 1989
- Now in an average 20 transplants/year
- Tissue source-Kathmandu eye bank/Seva volunteers
- > 1000 patients in waiting list for transplants
- Each day, 2- 5 cases needing transplants in the clinic

Eye Banking Barriers/Hurdles

- Lack of Public Awareness
- Myths about eye donations
- Lack of motivation in medical personnel/ interest in even eye doctors
- Time of eye removal after death/other barriers
- Rules and laws –not favourable
- Continuous message/propagation - expensive
- Religious barriers

Eye Banking Barriers/Hurdles contd...

- Lack of Knowledge/consciousness
- Approachability
- Organ donation- an-immotional issue
- Wrong propaganda

Public Awareness

- Public awareness programmes to be conducted in periodic interval
- All the local NGOs, representatives of religious organizations, school teachers, police, army, political parties, businessmen, govt. officials should be invited
- Need of corneal transplant to be advocated
- Phamplets, audio-visual demonstration

Public Awareness

- Involve school children in public awareness programme
- Involve as message carriers-like in poster competition/& logos etc .
- Parents ,their relatives can be easily convinced by school children.
- Sensitize and involve celebrities,media,leaders to propogate.Special message by Religious leaders.

Myths about eye donations

- Body /Face is disfigured
- Will be born blind in Next birth
- How will I see my ancestors/ God, after death?
- Councillors/greif counsellors should able to convince that there is life of many blind people in one dead body's eyes

Lack of motivation in medical personnel

- Medical practitioners are not aware of eye donations-conduction of awareness programmes in district hospitals/medical colleges.
- Even eye doctors are not aware of it sometimes.
- All should be motivated

Time of eye removal after death/other barriers

- Time of removal after death-6 to 8 hours
- Grieving family takes time to come to team with the death/ loss.
- Emotional trauma at that moment
- Forget to call
- If even call, do not wait longer
- Ignore sometimes.

Continuous message/propogation-expensive

- Eye donation issue-a new propagation than other issues
- If no continuous message/propagation, people forget immediately.
- Continuous and sustained message/propagation has to be done which is expensive

Religious barriers

- Myths about eye donation-as already stated above
- Priests and religious leaders should be motivated
- In context of Nepal , it works good in ghats.
- Special message regarding eye donation by Religious leaders.

Rules and laws -not favourable

- Govt. rules and laws to remove organ for transplant-not favourable ,needs modification.
- Endorse such rules like Required request Law which makes it mandatory for all hospitals to ask families of the desired for eye donation.
- Motivate government to give special facilities like a central phone number like fire, police/toll free no.
- Stamps, print on public stationary like bills.