

# Frequently Asked Questions about Eye Donation

## ▶ What is Cornea?

The cornea is the clear, transparent layer in front of the “black portion” of the eye. It is the main focusing surface, which converges light rays as they enter the eye to focus on the retina. Loss of transparency in cornea directly results in loss of vision.

## ▶ What is Corneal Transplantation?

A Corneal transplant is an operation that replaces the opaque cornea with a clear cornea obtained from a human donor.

## ▶ What are the causes of Corneal Transplantation?

- Infection
- Injuries
- Malnutrition
- Wrong medication
- Complications consequential to eye surgery

## ▶ Why is Eye Donation required?

1.2 million People in India are corneal blind and every Year 20 to 30 Thousand Patients are added in keratoplasty list. No medicine can cure Corneal Blindness and only human cornea is the cure which can be procured only after death.

## ▶ Who can be an Eye Donor?

Anyone can be an Eye Donor

- Spectacle users
- Eye surgery patients
- Diabetics and hypertensive persons

## ▶ Who cannot donate the cornea?

Patients suffering from following diseases are not eligible for eye donation:

**R:** Rabies

**E:** Encephalitis

**D:** Death from Unknown Cause

**H:** Hepatitis B and C

**A:** AIDS/HIV

**T:** Tuberculosis Miliary

**S:** Syphilis

The Eye Bank personnel screen the medical history before recovery to determine the suitability of corneas.

## ▶ After death, what is the time limit for Eye Donation?

Cornea can be donated within 6 -8 hours after death.

## ▶ How much time is required for Cornea retrieval?

Time required for cornea retrieval is just 20 minutes and it causes no disfigurement of the face.

## ▶ What is Hospital Cornea Recovery Program (HCRP)?

HCRP focuses on counselling the families of deceased persons and providing the support after death by the trained Eye Donation Counselor (EDC). These EDCs, after determining the suitability of the cornea approach the family and act as catalyst in the Eye Donation process.

## ▶ Why is HCRP important?

HCRP focuses on:

1. Quality
2. Consistency
3. Growth Rate
4. Focused Awareness
5. Compliance to the law
6. Ties to the larger mission of the Hospital

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▶ What are the precautions to be taken after death to safeguard the cornea?



SEE protocol is something very important and tangible that you can do that supports a successful cornea transplant.

An outdated and harmful practice is to place ice on the eyelids. This can actually damage tissue. A better practice is the use of proper tape, if necessary, to keep the eyelids closed.

▶ How can I locate the Eye Bank near me?

Please click on this link and you will get the list of all eye bank registered in India <http://ebai.org/eye-bank-list/>

If you want to know more about Eye Donation and HCRP, please connect with:

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