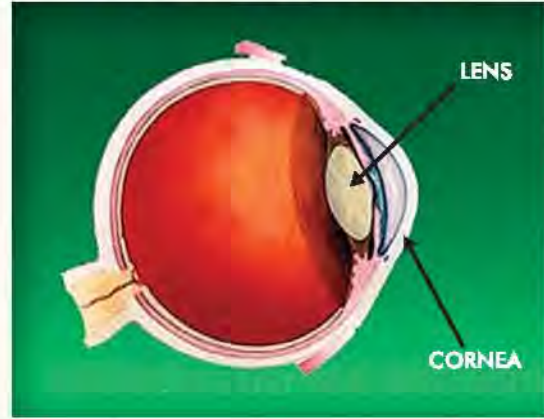


Why Eye Donation?



What is cornea?

Cornea is the glass like covering over the pupil of the eye.

Why does the cornea get damaged?

The cornea usually gets damaged because of infections or injuries of the eye or poor nutrition, especially in childhood.

Make eye donation a family tradition

How can eyesight be restored?

Persons who have lost their sight because of damage to the cornea can hope to regain it with corneal grafting (keratoplasty).

Are there any synthetic substitutes for the cornea?

So far no substitutes have been developed for the cornea.

Who can pledge his/her eyes for donation?

Any person can pledge to donate his/her eyes without consideration of age, sex or social status. Those who wear glasses, have had a successful eye surgery or suffer from some systemic disease, can also pledge to donate their eyes.

Are any costs involved in eye donation?

No fees are charged from the family. The Eye Collection Centre will rush a doctor to the donor's home after information is received about the death of the donor. This is a free service in the public interest.

Can the eyes be removed at home?

The eyes can be removed at home/hospital/ mortuary/ any other place where the body is kept after death within 6-8 hrs., after which the tissue becomes less useful for the purpose of keratoplasty.

Netradaan - Mahadaan

Does the recipient have to pay for the eye that is used for grafting?

Services by the government and voluntary sector are provided free of charge. Donated eyes are never bought or sold.

What are the moral and religious views on eye donation?

Religious leaders throughout the world have voiced their support for eye donation as an expression of the highest humanitarian ideas.

How to contact?

Contact the nearest Eye Collection Centre / Eye Bank after the death of a person who has given consent to be a donor.

Procedure for Eye Donation

Enquire about the nearest Eye Collection Centre/Eye Bank. This is likely to be located at a Medical College or Eye Hospital in your area. Contact the one nearest you (by phone or a personal visit) and they will register your pledge and will be provided you an Eye Donation Card.

It is preferable if all members of the family pledge their eyes together. However, an individual can also pledge his/her eyes at any time in life. The eyes shall be collected only after death

Do not ignore eye injuries

of the person who has pledged and/or if the close relatives give consent for the same.

The eyes of a deceased person can also be donated whether he/she has pledged his/her eyes in life or not. (Under law, relatives of the deceased can donate his/her eyes provided he/she has never spoken against eye donation.)

Important Information for -

Donors:

- Fill the enclosed pledge form and register your intention of donating your eyes. Though this step is not necessary, it is useful to declare your commitment.
- We will send you the Donor Card. Preserve it carefully, it will serve as a long-term reminder for everyone.
- Discuss your intention of eye donation with your family doctor and relatives.
- Declare your intention to donate your eyes in your will.
- If you shift to a new home, record the address and telephone number of the new eye-bank nearest to your home.

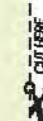
Relatives:

- Get the vital death certificate quickly and call the nearest eye bank for eye collection.
- Switch off fans (keep A/C On) and place wet cotton/cloth over the closed eyelids. It will help keep the eyeballs moist.
- Raise head with a pillow.
- Please note that a blood sample is collected from the donor to check for AIDS, Hepatitis etc.

Visit your Ophthalmologist once yearly



Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Ophthalmology Section
(IEC Unit)
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110108.
Website: www.mohfw.nic.in



FAMILY PLEDGE FORM FOR EYE DONATION

In the hope that I/We may help others, I/We hereby make this anatomical gift, if medically acceptable, to take effect upon my/our death. The statement below indicates my/our desire(s).

I and the following members of our family give my/our eyes for the purposes of transplantation, therapy, medical research or education.

Relationship/Witness	Name in Block Letters	Date of Birth	Signature
Self	Mr./Ms.		
	Mr./Ms.		
	Mr./Ms.		
	Mr./Ms.		
	Mr./Ms.		
	Mr./Ms.		

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Tel. (O/R) _____ Date ____/____/____
Pin Code _____ District _____