ROLE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN EYE DONATION
WHAT IS CORNEAL BLINDNESS?

THE CORNEA IS A CLEAR, TRANSPARENT TISSUE THAT COVERS THE FRONT OF THE EYE.

REDUCTION IN VISION OR LOSS OF EYESIGHT OCCURS WHEN THE CORNEA IS DAMAGED.
CAUSES OF CORNEAL BLINDNESS

INJURIES
INFECTIONS
MALNUTRITION
CHEMICAL BURNS
CONGENITAL DISORDERS
POST OPERATIVE DISORDERS
FORTUNATELY, CORNEAL BLINDNESS IS REVERSIBLE!

SIGHT CAN BE RESTORED THROUGH CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION
BUT THE AVAILABILITY OF EYES FOR DONATION IS FAR LESS THAN THE REQUIREMENT...

THERE ARE 52 MILLION VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE IN INDIA AND NUMBER OF DONORS PER YEAR IS JUST OVER 40 THOUSAND
THE DEATH RATE PER 1000 IN PUNE IN 2010 AS PER WORLD BANK WAS 8.04% AMOUNTING TO 44,149

BUT ONLY 1296 EYES WERE COLLECTED. THAT IS, ONLY 648 PEOPLE DONATED WHICH IS MERELY 1.47%
WHY IS THERE SUCH A SCARCITY OF DONORS?

LACK OF AWARENESS

MISCONCEPTIONS AND MYTHS

RELIGIOUS APPREHENSIONS

LACK OF INFORMATION
SOLUTIONS

ONE OF THE KEY SOLUTIONS IS THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER IN PROMOTING THE CAUSE.
THE FAMILY DOCTOR IS TRUSTED BY THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED AND IS IN A POSITION TO SUGGEST EYE DONATION AT THE TIME OF DEATH.
THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER CAN PROMOTE THE CAUSE BY HAVING EYE DONATION POSTERS AND INFORMATIVE BROCHURES AT HIS CLINIC. THIS WILL SPREAD AWARENESS AND HELP THE CAUSE REACH A GREATER NUMBER OF PEOPLE.
AVAILABILITY OF EYE DONATION FORMS AT A GP’S CLINIC WILL MAKE IT CONVENIENT FOR PEOPLE TO PLEDGE THEIR EYES.
THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER IN HIS CAPACITY AS FAMILY DOCTOR ISSUES DEATH CERTIFICATES. CARRYING EYE DONATION FORMS AT THE TIME OF DEMISE WILL GREATLY INCREASE CHANCES OF DONATION.
EVEN IF ONE GP IS ABLE TO FIND ONE EYE DONOR EVERY TWO YEARS, IT WILL ACCOUNT FOR A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN EYE DONATION.
WHAT IS AN EYE BANK?

An eye bank is a place for storing and preserving corneas that are obtained from human corpses immediately after death; used for corneal transplantation to patients with corneal defects.
EYE DONATION FACTS

EYES SHOULD BE DONATED WITHIN 6 TO 8 HOURS OF DEATH

ONLY THE CORNEA IS USED FOR TRANSPLANT AND REMOVAL TAKES ONLY ABOUT 15 - 20 MINS.

THERE IS NO COST TO DONATE. TRANSPLANT AGENCIES BEAR ALL COSTS.
EYE DONATION FACTS

EYES ARE EVALUATED AT THE EYE BANK AND ONLY THE ONES DEEMED SUITABLE ARE USED FOR TRANSPLANT. OTHERS ARE USED FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.
EYE DONATION FACTS

EYES CAN BE DONATED BY THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED EVEN IF THE DECEASED HAD NOT FORMALLY PLEDGED THEIR EYES DURING THEIR LIFETIME.

EYE DONATION IS NOT AGAINST THE TEACHINGS OF ANY RELIGION. IT IS ENDORSED BY ALL RELIGIONS.
EYE DONATION MYTHS

X EYE DONATION CAUSES DISFIGUREMENT OF FACE LEAVING HOLES AT THE EYE SOCKETS.

X AN EYE DONOR IS BORN BLIND IN HIS OR HER NEXT LIFE.

X PEOPLE WITH WEAK EYESIGHT CANNOT DONATE
PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN

CLOSE THE EYELIDS OF THE DECEASED AND SWITCH OFF THE FAN

RAISE THE HEAD OF THE DECEASED BY PLACING A PILLOW UNDERNEATH

CONTACT THE NEAREST EYE BANK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
WHO CAN DONATE?

ANYONE CAN BE A DONOR, IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE, SEX, BLOOD GROUP OR RELIGION
WHO CANNOT DONATE?

PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM:
HEPATITIS, AIDS, ENCEPHALITIS, RABIES, SEPTICIMEA (BACTEREMIA, FUNGEMIA, VIREMIA), RETINOBLASTOMA, LEUKEMIA, LYMPHOMA, END STAGE CANCER, CREUTZFELDT-JACOD SYNDROME
EVERYONE PASSES AWAY...
BE SOMEONE THAT PASSES ON!

DONATE THE GIFT OF SIGHT!