

## One cornea restores eye sight of two females

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By Vrushali Purandare

As is common knowledge, donation of eyes ranks high vis-a-v-vis other organs donation, especially that regarding the cornea. On getting cornea tissue, two previously ladies whose sight was badly afflicted got their eye sight back. And it was all thanks to 18-year-old youth who hailed from out of Maharashtra state and met with an accident on 12th January and was brain dead on 14th January. The cornea tissue was secured from him on 14th January and two females were successfully operated on 16th January. The surgery was performed at Ojas Eye clinic Bandra. Now both are overwhelmed with joy at seeing the whole world.

According to Dr Nitin Dedhia eye surgeon, Ojas Eye clinic, "The first patient came to me with corneal swelling on both eyes which caused decreased vision, with pain and redness. Corneal swelling is a condition wherein the transparent cornea (the part of the eye which acts as window to the outer world) becomes opaque. As this part becomes opaque outside world becomes foggy and vision gradually deteriorates. She underwent partial thickness/lamellar corneal transplant called DSEK where only the inner diseased layers are replaced by similar healthy layers from donor's eye. Now she is fine, post-surgery her vision is clear and is symptom free and satisfied".



**CARDOS SANTAN**

About the second patient Dr.Dedhia said, "Second patient had superficial scar limited to upper layers only. In her only the superior layers from same donor cornea were replaced. This partial thickness/lamellar corneal transplant is called Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty (DALK), both are fine and got their vision back".

"The above two patients benefited through a 18 years old person's cornea, death was due to road traffic accident. What made this donor different was that one cornea was used for two different patients by a recent technique of lamellar keratoplasty. In Lamellar corneal transplant only the diseased layers of cornea are replaced with similar layers from healthy donor cornea. This helps us in bridging the gap between donor supply and recipient requirement," Dr Dedhia added.

Dr. Hardik Parikh, opthal surgeon of Ojas said, "There are five layers of cornea. A corneal transplant is a surgical procedure which replaces a disc-shaped segment of an unhealthy cornea with a similarly shaped piece of healthy donor cornea. In this we rectify which layer is a not useful. So we just remove the tissues which are not useful and replace it with the good donor tissue that has been used in corneal transplantation surgery. So out of five, three were given to one donor and two to another, so this way we have save and use, without wasting a single tissue".

The joyous first patient Nirmal Thakker, 62 stated, " Vision was very cloudy before surgery and now I am able to see everything, when I came to Ojas for the first time, I could not walk on my own and needed to be held to move around because of poor vision. After my surgery I am very much satisfied and carry out my daily activities, even minor chores, with confidence, I heartily thank Doctor Nitin and his team".

Second patient Santan Cardoz, 70 said, "I am happy surgery was comfortable and I am satisfied with the visual outcome. I had lost hope, that I could get my vision back as this surgery was too difficult for me as I was scared, but thanks to Ojas and doctors team, all my things were done in charitable way so I heartily thank Dr. Nitin ji, who acted as an angel to me and give

me a new good life, I am very much satisfied, and have started my routine activities”.

First type of lamellar surgery performed is called Descemet's Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSEK). This is a recent addition to corneal transplant surgery which is completely sutureless. It has very good visual outcome, faster recovery and less complications. It has success rate of 98-99%. Second type called DALK is more successful - 100% .

It is heartening to know that awareness on eye donation is increasing however it needs to improve further and reach all. Also stigma associated with the surgery needs to be removed. Eye surgeons are actively involved with eye awareness programmes but contribution from respected professionals from society will provide the much required and needed boost.



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