**EYE DONOR CARD**

I hereby give my consent to donate my eyes after my death for the purpose of Transplantation or Medical Education or Research

Donor's Name: ____________________________

Age: ___________ Sex: Male / Female ______________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Tel. No. ____________________________________________

Date: ______________ Donor’s Signature ________________

Witness: ______________ Witness: ______________

In the event of death:

1. Keep death certificate copy ready.
2. Contact nearest eye bank as soon as possible.
3. Switch off fan. If possible, switch on AC.
4. Close the eyelids & put a moist cloth over the eyes.
5. Put two pillows beneath the donor’s head.

**EYE BANK COORDINATION & RESEARCH CENTRE**

K.B. H. Bachooali Hospital, 56/60, Jehangir Merwanji Street, Near KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai - 400 012, INDIA

Trust Regd. No. E-15994, Mumbai

91–22–416 2929 / 2416 4342 –

ebcrc@mtnl.net.in –

http://www.eyebankcrc.org

**EYE DONATION**

In affiliation with

**KARUNYA TRUST**

Vision: “You are the light of the World” (Mt 5:14)

Mission: Gift 20,000 sights by 2020 through awareness campaigns & networking with people’s organizations, like-minded NGO’S which will promote a culture of universal brotherhood by mobilizing the potentials and resources available within and outside the communities.


Maharashtra, India. Ph: 022 2578 5515, 2579 8625.

Email: karunyatrust@hotmail.com

Web: www.karunyatrustonline.org

**KARUNYA TRUST**

In affiliation with

**Eye Bank Coordination & Research Centre**

K. B. H Bachooali Hospital, 56/60, Jehangir Merwanji Street, Near KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai - 400 012

Ph: 022 2416 4342, 2416 8869 | Toll Free: 1919

Ph: 022 2578 5515, 2579 8625 |

Email: ebcrc@mtnl.net.in

Web: www.eyebankcrc.org

**Eye Donation**

Statistics: There are about 4 crore blind persons in the world. There are approximately 2.0 – 2.5, million corneally blind Citizens in India out of which 50 % are children below 12 years of age. Another 25,000, are added each year. About 25 lacs suffer from opacity of cornea. So far there is no artificial substitute available so corneas retrieved from dead persons eyes are the only solution.

Cornea is the clear, transparent tissue covering the front of the eye. Life of cornea is 150 years therefore corneas replaced can be donated. Every year one crore individuals die in India but eye balls are collected from only 15 thousand bodies. Eye donation in India today meets less than 5% of the demand for corneal transplants. Cornea can become cloudy from disease, injury, infection or malnutrition, vision is dramatically lost or reduced. Corneal blindness can be treated by replacing the damaged cornea by a healthy donated human cornea. The human cornea can be procured through eye donation. Eye donation and restoration of sight through corneal transplant is a very exciting combination of selfless charity and the miracle of medical technology.

An eye bank is an organization which deals with the collection, storage and distribution of donor eyes for purposes of corneal grafting, research and supply of the eye tissues for other ophthalmic purposes.

Removal of eyes takes only 20 minutes while the cornea transplant surgery can be performed in half an hour. Yet it must be remembered that eyes/corneas are human tissue and like other organs (kidneys, heart, and the like) needs sincere and sustained technical expertise and dedicated commitment to quality and systematic procedures to handle.

Anyone can be a eye donor irrespective of age, sex, blood group, religion, caste or creed. You can donate eyes even if:

- You wear glasses
- You are hypertensive
- You are diabetic
- You had cataract
- You have undergone cataract surgery
- Eyes will not be collected if death has occurred due to the following diseases only.
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Hepatitis B
  - Septicemia / Sepsis: Viral Infection spread thru bloodstream affecting vital organs.
  - Leukemia: Disease related to Bone Marrow
  - Rabies: Fatal viral disease, transmitted by the bite of warmblooded animals like dogs
  - Cancer with Metastasis to Head and Neck: Transmission of pathogenic microorganisms/cancerous cells thru blood vessels.

There are certain myths about eye donation which prevent families from donating eyes of their departed dear ones. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYTH</th>
<th>FACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision to donate eyes can be taken by the deceased.</td>
<td>Decision to donate eyes can be taken by the kith and kin without prior approval of the deceased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donating eyes disfigures the body of the deceased.</td>
<td>Donating eyes does not disfigure the body of the deceased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who had poor eye sight cannot donate eyes.</td>
<td>Even those who had poor eye sight can donate eyes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye donation must take place immediately after death.</td>
<td>Eye donation can be completed within 6 hours of death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased person has to be taken to a hospital for removal of eyes.</td>
<td>Eyes are removed at home by a team of trained persons from the eye bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious faith does not support eye donation.</td>
<td>All religions endorse eye donation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is to be formally pledged to donate eyes during lifetime.</td>
<td>Immediate family members or relatives can donate the eyes of the deceased even if the deceased had not pledged for eye donation during his/her life time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Steps to take care for donation of the eyes**

- Close the eye lids gently and keep a moist cloth over eyes.
- Raise the head by 6 inches by placing 2 pillows underneath.
- Switch off fans & keep AC on, if you have one.
- Call the nearest eye bank within SIX HOURS of the death of the person.
- Obtain the death certificate.
Conclusions

- Pledge to donate your eyes. Make it a family tradition.
- Motivate and educate others about eye donation.
- Motivate the next of kin of the deceased person to donate their eyes.

A phone call can change a life...

A timely phone call to the nearest eye bank is enough. In many cities in India including Mumbai there is also a Centralised Help Line No. 1919 available 24 hours for eye donation.

For Donors

1. Fill up the donor card attached with this information
2. The said card has two parts. Keep one part with you and let the other part be with your nearest relative.
3. See the instruction mentioned in the Donor cards for the procedure to be followed for eye donation in case of death.
4. The law does not require that the deceased has to sign a donor card or a pledge card. It is only the expression of the wish of a person to donate his eyes after the death. Only the relatives can take the decision to donate eye of the deceased after the death.

Frequently asked questions about eye donation:

Q: Who can be an eye donor?
A: Anyone can be a donor irrespective of age, sex or blood group.

Q: Do religious authorities approve of donation of one’s eyes?
A: Yes, all the religious faiths support this noble act of humanity helping vital sight restoration program to provide vision to the blind people.

Q: Is there any use for corneas for which some reason are not used for transplant?
A: Corneas which are not found viable for transplant are used for research and teaching purposes.

Q: What is the difference between an Eye Bank and Eye Donation Centre?
A: An eye Donation Centre provides the services of attending to the call received form a donor’s family for removal of eyeballs and send them to an Eye Bank where there are full – fledged facilities for processing, evaluation and storing the corneas in a suitable medium to keep it viable up to 4 days and provide suitable quality cornea to the needy patients / hospital for transplant. Necessary blood tests are also carried out by the Eye bank. In a city like Mumbai, there are several eye donation centres, Bank (although they are called Eye Banks), most of which are linked to a central eye bank viz. Eye Bank Co-Operation

Q: How quickly should the eyes be removed after death?
A: As soon as possible, not more that 4 to 6 hours after death. In a country like ours, where the climate is hot & humid, the endothelium cells in cornea deteriorate faster and hence shorter time interval is preferable.

Q: When would the eye donation process begin after the death of a donor?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: How will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: Is there any use for corneas for which some reason are not used for transplant?
A: Corneas which are not found viable for transplant are used for research and teaching purposes.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: The donation of eyes does not produce disfigurement nor does it interfere with the customary funeral arrangements.

Q: Does the removal of eyes disfigure the donor’s face?
A: No, only the thin transparent layer in front of the iris called the outer lens of a camera.

Q: What are the conditions which may render the corneas unfit?
A: Corneas which are not found viable for transplant are used for research and teaching purposes.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: When would the eye donation process begin after the death of a donor?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: When would the eye donation process begin after the death of a donor?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.

Q: How much will my donation be used?
A: After the eyes are removed, they will be evaluated, processed, and then supplied to the eye surgeon for transplant.

Q: What conditions render corneas unfit for donations?
A: Cornea of persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation. At the time of enucleating, blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken and necessary tests for HIV, Syphilis & Hepatitis are carried out by the Eye Bank.

Q: What about diabetes or hypertension?
A: Even donors with these conditions can donate their eye.

Q: Why should the corneas be removed from the eyes?
A: Corneas do not have any direct blood supply so the risk of rejection is very low. Rejection, if they occur, can be suppressed by timely medication.