

NATIONAL EYE DONATION FORTNIGHT 2017 OBSERVED AT ANIIMS, PORT BLAIR

Eye donation fortnight was observed all over India from 25th August to 8th September 2017. The Department of Ophthalmology, ANIIMS too participated in the drive to eradicate blindness by spreading the valuable message of eye donation during the fortnight. Awareness programs for the general public were conducted over AIR and seminars were held for the students of the DBRAIT and ANM College.

Common FAQs associated with eye donation as answered by Dr. Seema Das, Senior Resident, Dept. of Ophthalmology, ANIIMS.

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 (corneal transplantation).
- ❖ Who can pledge his eyes for donation after death?
Any person can 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 like hypertension, diabetes mellitus can also donate their eyes.
- ❖ Will I be born blind in the next birth if I donate my eyes?
No
- ❖ Can the eyes be removed at home?
The eyes can be removed at home or any other place where the body is kept after death within 6 hours.
- ❖ Who can harvest (remove) cornea from the cadaver (dead patient)?
A trained paramedics (who has had training in eye procurement) from the cadaver. He/she need not be an ophthalmologist.
- ❖ What are the moral and religious views on eye donation?
All religious leaders throughout the world have voiced their support for eye donation as an expression of the highest humanitarian ideas.
- ❖ Who cannot donate eyes?
AIDS, Hepatitis, encephalitis, rabies, septicaemia, leukaemia, lymphoma patients.

Director, ANIIMS