FOLLOW THE CORNEA

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TYPICAL PROCESS FOR SURGEON

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And the cornea appears in the OR

CORNEAL TISSUE IS NOT A COMMODITY

EBAA maintains a network of large, non-profit organizations developed to provide safe and quality donor organs to recipients in need.
EYE DONATION REQUIRES A LARGE NETWORK OF SUPPORT

- Referral and Recovery
- Corneal Evaluation and Processing
- Cornea Distribution
- Regulation and Accreditation

REFERRAL AND RECOVERY

- Agreements exist between donor organizations and hospitals
- Hospitals are to notify the contracted donor organization in a timely manner of every individual whose death is imminent or who has died in the hospital
- Inform the family of each potential donor of their options to donate organs, tissues, or eyes
  - Hospital development teams assist with education, compliance, and promotion of donation
- Need proponents in the hospitals to champion donation

RECOVERY

- Coordinate surgical procedures and personnel for eye recovery
  - In-situ
  - Whole globe recovery
- Preserve and transport tissue to OPO (organ procurement organization) for evaluation

K EVALUATION AND PROCESSING

Careful review of donor history and testing:
- Donor screening/testing (Physical exam, lab test results, autopsy findings)
- Donor age
- Death to Preservation time
- Death to Surgery time
- PMH/COD/Social history (cancer, drug use, drowning, CO poisoning, etc...)

Careful gross inspection and slit-lamp examination of cornea:
- Epithelial defects
- Clear zone, clarity
- Scars
- Folds and stress lines
- Endothelial cell counts & defects
- Pachymetry
CORNEA PACKAGING

- Tissue maintained 2-8 degrees Celsius
- Corneal storage media with pH indicator (changes color if bacteria is present)
- Tamper evident seal

CORNEAL DISTRIBUTION

- Corneas are distributed nationally and internationally
- Database maintained to track anatomical gifts
- Assignment of unique tissue ID number for tracking of tissue
- Request recipient information
- Request post-op follow up 3-12 months from the transplanting surgeon

REGULATION AND ACCREDITATION

- EBAA maintains medical standards to assure consistently acceptable levels of quality, proficiency, and ethics in eye tissue transplantation
  - Each bank must have a Certified Eye Bank Technician (CEBT)
  - Each bank must have a Medical Director – Ophthalmologist who has completed a corneal fellowship
- FDA regulates tissues to prevent transmission of communicable disease

THE GIFT OF SIGHT IS PRECIOUS

- Let's not turn the gift of organ donation into a commodity