Impact of Eye Donation Counselors and Trained Nurses in Hospital Cornea Retrieval Program

Radhika Tandon MD, Harsvardhan MD, Arpan BK Subhashish, Srilatha P.S. MD, S. Tibrewal MD

Dr R. P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Grant Support

- WHO SEARO
- Delhi Eye Banking Pilot Project

Background

- Corneal blindness: Significant public health concern for India
- Current estimate: 1.6 Million corneal blind
- Huge mismatch between the total corneas collected and required

Background

- Established role of grief counselors in organ donation
- Prior to study inadequate number of grief counselors at AIIMS
- The study was planned to assess the role of grief counselors in cornea donation
Aim

- To study the role of the grief counselors (GC) versus trained nurses in improving eye donation

Objectives

- To study the Impact of the grief counselors on the total cornea collection
- To analyze the performance of trained nurses versus grief counselors

Methodology

- Study design: Descriptive study with both the retrospective & prospective study designs
- Study period: 15th July, 2011 to 15th December, 2011
- Study sites: AIIMS Hospital, DDU Hospital, RML Hospital & Safdarjung Hospital

Methodology

- 5 new grief counselors hired
- 30 nurses trained in counseling and eye donation.

Study Models:
- Model 1: Grief counselors (GCs) alone- DDU hospital
- Model 2: Trained nurses- Safdarjung Hospital
- Model 3: Combination of both- AIIMS and RML
Results and conclusions

Total Collection Break-up by Source: July-December 2010 & 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Increment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCRP1</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCRP2</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VD</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEB</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Cornea Collection: 2009-2011

- Total Corneas Collected: 2009 - 2011
- Number of Corneas
- HCRP1: Collection by grief counselors
- HCRP2: Collection from other sources
- VD: Collection through voluntary calls
- CC: Collection through collection centers
- OEB: Collection of corneas by other eye banks.

Total collection of corneas: 2010 & 2011

- Jul-Dec Period
- Jan-Jun Period
- Increase by 25%
- Increase by 14%
Project execution report: over 6 months

Conclusions

- Grief counselors have a significant role in enhancing corneal retrieval rate
- Grief counselors are more effective than trained nurses
- Significant role of trained nurses as well

Limitation

- Short study period (5 months)
- Multiple variables with different hospital settings

Questions?