

ABSTRACT: ORAL PRESENTATION

System improvement with an implementation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in cadaveric eye retrieval in District General Hospital, Matale

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Introduction: According to World Health Organization (2010), the global prevalence of blindness was 39 million. Of them, 4% is due to corneal opacity. Corneal transplantation is often a remedy for restoring vision in patients with damaged corneas. Cadaveric eye retrieval plays a major role in this regard.

Objective: To Improve the system in Cadaveric Eye Retrieval procedures in District General Hospital (DGH), Matale.

Methodology: Developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and introduction of a printed format to be filled by the eye retrieval technician, the medical officer who certifies the death in the ward, the inquirer into sudden death, or the judicial medical officer in a case of an inquest.

Discussion: Suboptimal standards were observed on many occasions in the cadaveric eye retrieval procedures in DGH, Matale. A knowledge gap was noticed in the eye retrieval procedures among eye retrieval technicians, medical officers, nursing officers, judicial medical officers, and inquirers into sudden deaths. Further, several gaps were identified in the selection of the donors, process of eye retrieval, and legitimacy. With extensive research, a printed format was introduced to be filled by the above named officers. The aim of the implementation of this format and the SOP is to ensure that all activities involving human cadaveric eye retrieval are performed for the purposes of disease prevention in corneal transplantation.

Conclusion and recommendation: With the implementation of the standard format though the number of eye retrievals were reduced, the eyes were not retrieved on descendants with contra indications leading to preventing infections. We recommend implementing this format and the SOP all the hospital in Sri Lanka so that stake holders who are involved in cadaveric eye retrieval procedure including the eye technicians adhere to the duties specified in the SOP leading to improvement in the desired quality of the eye retrieval process.

Keywords: Cadaveric eye retrieval, standard operating procedure, corneal transplantation

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