EFFICACY OF HOSPITAL CORNEA RETRIEVAL PROGRAM IN ALLEVIATING CORNEAL BLINDNESS

**Purpose:** To study and compare the demography, quality of tissue and utilization of corneal tissues obtained from Hospital cornea retrieval program (HCRP) and Home retrieval.

**Methodology:** It is a Prospective observational study in which the corneas retrieved through HCRP and home retrieval between December 2015 and November 2016 were analyzed.

**Results:** Total number of eyes collected through HCRP and home retrieval were 252 and 165 respectively. Eyes were used for various surgeries like penetrating keratoplasty (PKP), therapeutic keratoplasty (TPK), Descemet's Stripping and Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK) etc. Utilization in HCRP and home retrieval were 79.4% and 52.9% respectively. HCRP corneas were most likely to be used for DSAEK (83%) and PKP (78.5%).

**Conclusion:** HCRP can bridge the demand supply gap that currently exits for a good quality corneal tissue. It is more effective system of corneal retrieval in terms of both collection and utilization.

**Keywords:** Hospital cornea retrieval program, Home retrieval, Optical Keratoplasty