



Sri Muthukumaran Medical College Hospital and Research Institute
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DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Corneal Transplant

The cornea is the transparent part in the eye that allows light to enter and performs 2/3rds of the focusing. It also covers the iris (the coloured portion of the external eye) and the pupil (the reactive 'light meter' in front of the lens). The cornea allows lights to enter the eyeball, and the cornea's convex shape focuses that light towards the pupil and another structure called the lens. The cornea is smooth and clear. However, injury, disease, or certain medical conditions can make it cloudy or difficult to see through. Corneal transplantation is indicated in these cases. The diseased cornea is removed and a healthy donor cornea is replaced in its stead.

Seldom has a field in medicine seen so many advances over a few decades as the cornea. It is now possible to selectively replace the disease portion of the cornea and replace it while leaving the non-affected portions intact. This procedure called lamellar keratoplasty is safer, efficient and leads to faster visual recovery and lesser post op time.

The medical history of every organ donor is reviewed carefully, and blood tests are performed to check for infections before corneal transplantation. If there is any doubt about the safety of corneal transplantation, the donated tissues are used for medical research instead of being transplanted into a patient's eye.

Post-Operative Care In A Corneal Transplant

After surgery, no pressure should be on the eye. It is best not even to touch or rub anywhere near the eye. For which the doctor advice wearing glasses or sunglasses to help protect the eye.

They would prescribe eye drops to help the eye heal and prevent infection. It is necessary to keep using some of these medications for a long time after a corneal transplant. Without these medications, the eye might have problems with the new tissue. Complete recovery of your eyesight could take from a few days up to one year.

It is mandatory to be patient and let the swelling go down. You are not going to see clearly overnight or in a few days. Patients who have successful corneal transplants report good vision for years. You play the main role in your recovery.

The best way to avoid problems after corneal transplantation is to follow your doctor's advice, including using all medications as recommended and keeping all follow-up appointments. Vision can change rapidly after corneal transplantation, so it is necessary to visit the eye doctor more often.

You should be aware that in a small number of cases, the new corneal tissue is rejected by the body even though the operation was successful, and all medications were taken correctly. It is not possible to predict exactly how your body will respond to a transplant. It is never fully known how the condition that caused your organ disease will affect your new, transplanted organ. The operation itself is complex and the risks remain high for many patients. After the transplant, you may still need to have surgeries, or other procedures in order to help your cornea survive and heal well.

Our surgeons are trained in the latest cutting edge technologies in lamellar transplants in Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, and in the Netherlands Institute of innovative ocular surgery, the Netherlands under Dr. Gerrit Melles who is the 'Father of lamellar surgery'.

Sri Muthukumaran medical college hospital and research institute has been a centre for corneal surgeries since 2019. Penetrating keratoplasties or full thickness transplants as well as lamellar surgeries including DALK, DSEK and DMEK which is the latest of the cutting edge procedures are being regularly done here by experienced doctors and a qualified transplant team at a very low cost.

