



Cornea/Eye & Tissue DONATION

Rochester Eye & Tissue Bank (RETB)

Giving others a brighter tomorrow . . .

Our Mission:

Giving others a brighter tomorrow
through recovery and placement of
eyes, organs and tissues.

Our History:

- 1952- founded as an Eye Bank
- 1968- agency broadened its education to include organs and tissues and adopted the name Rochester Eye & Human Parts Bank
- 1980s- began recovering other tissue to meet community need in tissue transplant applications
- 2001- began serving Central and Northern New York regions as Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank
- Today- we recover in 29 hospitals in 17 counties

RETB Programs:

- Recover, process, preserve and distribute corneas and other tissue for transplant, research and medical education
- Public awareness programs - includes an educational school program for grades 7-college
- Professional education - includes nursing and medical in-services, hospital orientations
- Fund transplant-related medical research

Conditions of Participation

What it states...

1. Call in all deaths in a timely manner.
2. Assure that all usable tissues and eye are obtained from potential donors
3. Ensure that the family is informed of its option to donate. Only a trained designated requestor is permitted to approach potential donor family and request donation
4. Encourage discretion and sensitivity with respect to families of potential donors.
5. Work cooperatively with recovery agency on donation issues, reviewing records and maintaining potential donors while necessary testing take place.

How to comply...



Call cardiac deaths within 1 hour



Answer medical history questions. RETB determines donor eligibility.



Provide contact number(s) for authorizing agent. RETB acts as the hospital's designated requestor per hospital policy



Do not mention the option of donation to the family



Be accessible



Scripting

Obtaining a cell phone number from the family:

Nurse: “Would you please leave us a cell phone number where we can reach you over the next several hours if need be?”

If a family member should broach the topic of donation or the possibility of donation to the Nurse:

Nurses response: “I’m not sure if donation is an option at this time. I’ll call a coordinator who can answer all your questions.”

Referral Process- *Final Act of Care*

- Call ALL cardiac deaths within 1 hour to Donor Hotline 1.800.894.9914
- Provide medical history information to representative (have HCP form available)

If the patient is eligible for cornea/eye donation:

1. You will be informed that the patient is a candidate and FLETB will call back for additional screening
2. Provide post mortem eye care

If the patient is **not** eligible for cornea/eye donation:

1. You will be informed that the patient is not a candidate and you will not receive a call-back from FLETB
2. Call admitting and inform them of the status

HIPAA Regulation:

Provision permits hospitals “to disclose protected health information without individual authorization, consent or agreement...as necessary to facilitate cadaveric donation.”

Postmortem Eye Care:

(Refer to Hospital Policy)

1. Elevate head (with rolled up linen/towel or pillow)
2. Apply saline drops in eyes
3. Gently close eye lids
4. Place ice packs on the closed lids
5. Send patient to morgue cooler

Eye Recovery:

- Surgical, sterile procedure completed within 12 hours from the time of death for transplant purposes
- Performed by specially trained personnel
- Enucleation - whole eye is removed and replaced with a prosthesis
- *In situ* - only the cornea is removed - placed directly into preservation medium
- Can be preserved up to 14 days, usually transplanted in 3-7 days

Who Can Be an Eye Donor?

- 2-75 years old (RETB determines transplant eligibility)
- Patients who have cancer or cancer with METS with no signs of infection and who may have been given chemotherapy
- Patients with poor eye sight, diabetes, macular degeneration or glaucoma
- Blind patients, if blindness is not due to corneal disease
- Medical Examiner, Coroner, or autopsy cases

Who Needs Corneal Transplants

Patients suffering from corneal blindness due to:

Disease

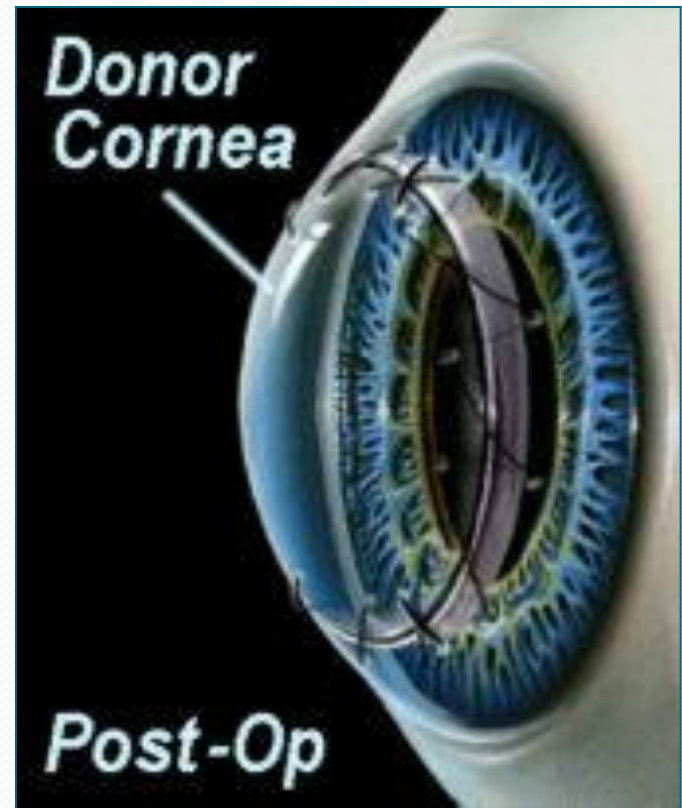
- Keratoconus
- Fuch's Dystrophy
- Peter's Anomaly

Injury

- Trauma
- Ulcers
- Chemical burns

Infection

- Herpes Lesions



Tissue Recovery:

- First incision within 15-24 hours after death with documented cooling
- Tissues recovered in operating room or our dedicated tissue recovery room
- Completed by a specially trained team
- Sterile operative procedure



Tissues That Can Be Recovered:

- **Bone** – replaces loss due to cancer or infection. Used in reconstruction for skeletal defects, disease and fractures. Averts the need for limb amputation
- **Connective tissue** – Often used in spinal fusion surgery & dental procedures.
 - **Fascia**: used in tendon & ligament repair, bladder & prostate slings
 - **Tendons**: used in shoulder & knee repair
 - **Cartilage**: repairs congenital & traumatic deformities
 - **Pericardium**: used in neuroplasticity reconstruction

Tissues Recovered: *-cont.*

- **Blood Vessels** – saphenous veins used to replace diseased vasculature to improve circulation
- **Heart Valves** – used primarily in children to replace defective valves
- **Skin** – full thickness used for breast reconstruction due to cancer or after mastectomy. Split thickness and dermal skin for burn treatment and specialty grafts such as slings for bladder, prostate and hernia repair.

After Recovery:

- Patient's body is carefully restored
- Nursing Supervisor, Admitting, and the funeral home are notified
- Tissues packaged on ice/solution and transported for processing
- Tissue is processed for transplant

Donation Can Offer Families:

- Involvement in carrying out the donor's wishes
(Donor Designation)
- The opportunity to carry out the donor's wishes
(when no donation documentation)
- Help with the grieving process
- Comfort in knowing someone's quality of life can be improved

Donation Helps 50+ LIVES

can be improved with each
eye & tissue donor.

Donor Family Support:

- Donor family correspondence
- Donor Family Quilt
- Anniversary card
- Thanksgiving memento
- Annual ceremony that honors donors
& their families: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

How to Enroll in the NYS Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry:

- Department of Motor Vehicles
(in person or at time of renewal)
- NY State Department of Health (on-line)
www.nyhealth.gov/donatelife
- Donor Registry Enrollment Form
- Voter Registration Form

Does not enroll one in the state registry,
but can be used as a legal donation document

- drivers license / health care proxy

RETB is committed to being good stewards of the gift of eye and tissue donation and dedicated to renewing lives.

Thank you
for your support and care.



Quiz:

1. When should deaths be called into Donor Hotline?
2. Who determines donor eligibility?
3. Can anyone talk to the authorizing agent (next-of-kin) about donation?
4. What are the five steps to postmortem eye care?
5. How many lives can be improved with each eye & tissue donor?

Answers:

1. Calls should be made within 1 hour to Donor Hotline.
2. RETB determines donor eligibility.
3. No, only a trained designated requestor is permitted to approach authorizing agent about donation. RETB is the designated requestor per hospital policy.
4. Elevate head, apply eye drops, close eye lids, place ice packs on eyes and send patient to morgue cooler.
5. 50+ lives can be improved with each eye and tissue donor.



Thank you!

For additional information visit:

www.retb.org