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**An overview on the corneal transplantation waiting list created by the new law: a five- month follow- up.**

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Purpose: A waiting list for corneal grafts in the state of Sao Paulo was created based on the existing legislation on organ donation (heart, liver and kidney). The Health State Office has been organizing the previously chaotic system in which every service had their own waiting list. The new legislation has been applied since May, 2000 and our purpose is to expose and make an analysis of the statistical data on the matter five months after that.

Methods: Analysing the last reports of October, we will show the number of patients enrolled in each center, the number of transplantations performed by them, the mean waiting time, the main indications and the age distribution of patients. We will explain how the different centers was organized and what the newly created OPC's (organizations to increase the corneal donation) were made for.

Results: The state of Sao Paulo has been divided into two centers represented by Sao Paulo city (18 million of inhabitants) and Ribeirao Preto (16 million of inhabitants). The first one has been divided again into four regional centers (EPM, HC-SP, Santa Casa and HSPE) and the other one into six regional centers (Sorocaba, Marilia, Botucatu, Sao Jose do Rio Preto, Campinas and Ribeirao Preto). The criteria for distribution in each regional center obeys the following order: priorities (eye perforation, corneal ulcer non responsive to clinical treatment, children under 7 years old with bilateral corneal opacities, failed primary graft and descemetocoele) and date of inscription, The main indications are: keratoconus (44.1%), bullous keratopathy (20.8%), cicatricial opacities (11.5%), others (9.5%), rejection of the graft (5.6%), Fuchs dystrophy (3.5%), other dystrophies (2.0%), trachoma (1.3%), herpes simplex (1.0%) and corneal burns (0.6%). The mean number of years a patient has to wait for the graft are: 0 -1 year (79 % of the patients); 1-2 yrs. (13.1%); 2-3 (4.8 %), 3-4 (2%) and 4- years, (1.%). The age distribution of the list is the following one: 30.1 % of the patients are 60 years old or older, 24 % are 20 - 30 years old, 15 % are 30 - 40 years old, 10.5% are 40 - 50 yrs. old, 9 % are 50 - 60, 10.8% are 10 - 20 and 0.5% are 0-10 years old.

Conclusion: The creation of the waiting list gives credit to our specialty to the public and media. For the first time we know the actual number of patients waiting for a graft. The list can be used for many purposes such as a redistribution of patients, optimization of each service, stimulation of corneal donation and finally to increase the number of corneal transplantations performed.