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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

Retrospective study of corneas donated to the São Paulo Hospital Eye Bank – Federal University of São Paulo .

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Purpose: To analyze the distribution of the donated corneas – optic, tectonic or experimental, of the São Paulo Hospital Eye Bank – Federal University of São Paulo.

Methods: We analyzed retrospectively the records of eyes donated between October 2001 to June 2002. Data from donors such as age, sex, location of donation and the distribution of corneas were analyzed. For the selection of the donor, the list of contraindications from Eye Bank American Association was followed , and slit lamp evaluation of the ocular globe was done . The eyes excluded were utilized to experimental activities. The remaining eyes were preserved and the donor cornea was evaluated by biomicroscopy and by specular microscopy for optic or tectonic purposes. The donor cornea with acceptable aspects on biomicroscopy, with endothelial cell counts higher than 2000 cell/mm², and suitable morphology by specular microscopy, were utilized for optical purposes .

Results: In the analyzed period, we had 196 donors, totalizing 376 eyes. The age of the donors varied from 11 months to 92 years old, with an average of 52 years old. Male donors predominated with 62%, and female donors were 38%. The São Paulo Hospital contributed 64% of the corneas and the other hospitals contributed with 36%. Sixty percent of the corneas were preserved, 35% being used for optic purposes, and 25% for tectonic purposes. Forty percent of the corneas were not preserved, the main causes of no preservation being the following : systemic infections (septicemia 53%, HIV 3%, and viral hepatitis C 3%), appearance of donor cornea by biomicroscopy (stromal infiltrate 23%) , eyes submitted previously to an intra-ocular surgery 8%, leukemia and disseminated lymphoma 4%. The other causes were 6%.

Conclusions: Eye Banks must observe strict rules to provide tissues of high quality and free of potentially health threatening agents for the recipient. Therefore, 60% of the corneas were preserved, with only 35% of them being used for optic purposes. In view of the large waiting lists for corneal tissue, it is necessary to increase the number of donors by making the population aware of the importance of organ donation, especially of the cornea.