

## Comment on: Microbiological profile of eye donors and the effectiveness of ocular surface decontaminants during *in situ* corneal retrieval

Dear Editor,

As we all are aware that the current coronavirus pandemic has challenged human needs and disrupted healthcare policies across the globe, corneal donation and transplantation took a back seat due to rapid changes in eye banking protocols.<sup>[1]</sup> The hospital cornea retrieval program (HCRP) and voluntary eye donation (VED) also came to a standstill.<sup>[2]</sup> We read the interesting article by Dr. P. Singh and Dr. R. Tandon<sup>[3]</sup> highlighting the effectiveness of ocular surface decontaminating agents during *in situ* corneal retrievals in hospital mortuaries. However, we have a few important observations and suggestions to make that we believe will be beneficial in the context of the article.

First, a total of 594 corneas were procured from the mortuaries. It would be interesting to know what was the timeline for procurement of these corneas as the corneal donation was at a halt due to COVID-19 challenges and protocol.

Second, it would be beneficial to know what percentage of povidone-iodine was used for the study. We usually employ 5% povidone-iodine while enucleating the eyes during door-to-door voluntary eye donation or in the mortuary.<sup>[4]</sup>

Third, if one wants to replicate the same procedure, it would be interesting to know after how much time of topical drug application were the limbal swabs were taken.

During enucleation, we usually employ a three-step process: (a) a saline drop for removing any debris or residual impurities; (b) povidone-iodine as a disinfectant; and (c) 0.5% moxifloxacin application to reduce microbial load.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the authors for bringing out this simple, easily replicable, and vital analysis in the context of corneal retrieval in our country. This protocol, if followed regularly and correctly at all centers, can help to alleviate the contamination of donor tissue and endophthalmitis surprises in the immediate postoperative period.

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest

**Bharat Gurnani, Kirandeep Kaur<sup>1</sup>**

Consultant Cataract, Cornea and Refractive Services, <sup>1</sup>Consultant Cataract Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Services, Aravind Eye Hospital and Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Pondicherry-605007, India

Correspondence to: Dr. Bharat Gurnani,

MBBS, DNB, FCRS, FICO, MRCS Ed, MNAMS, Consultant Cataract, Cornea and Refractive Services, Aravind Eye Hospital and Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Pondicherry - 605 007, India.

E-mail: drgurnanibharat25@gmail.com

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