
4. Will every person who is blind benefit from a corneal transplant?

No, only people who have a damaged or diseased cornea can benefit from a corneal transplant.

5. Can people who wear glasses, have cataracts, or have glaucoma donate eye tissue?

People with healthy corneas are able to donate their eye tissue. Having poor eyesight does not mean you are unable to become a donor.

6. Can people with cancer donate their eye tissue?

Yes, most people with cancer are able to donate eye tissues. People who have leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, or certain eye cancers are unable to donate.

A Recipient's Story....

Heather, a 23 year old woman, graduated from a 4 year nursing program when a progressive eye disease reduced her vision to the point where she could no longer drive, see the numbers on a bus, or function in her job.

After her corneal surgery she said;

“When the bandage came off I could see the wall across the room. I could see what was on the table. I couldn't do that before. I just went, Wow!!”

*“The frustrating thing is you don't know how to say thank you. You don't know the people who made this possible. You wish you could tell them that they've made something good come out of someone's death. They gave me back my work. **They gave me a life. Thank you.**”*

Eye Bank of British Columbia

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Gift of Sight



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Introduction

The Eye Bank of BC is a provincial non-profit organization providing eye tissues for transplantation, education and research. We provide families the opportunity to donate their loved ones' eye tissues.

The cornea and the sclera are the two parts of the eye used in transplants. The cornea is the front part of the eye that is clear when healthy. Some conditions of the cornea cause vision loss and a successful corneal transplant can dramatically restore eyesight. The sclera is the white part of the eye that can be used for a variety of vision-related surgical procedures.

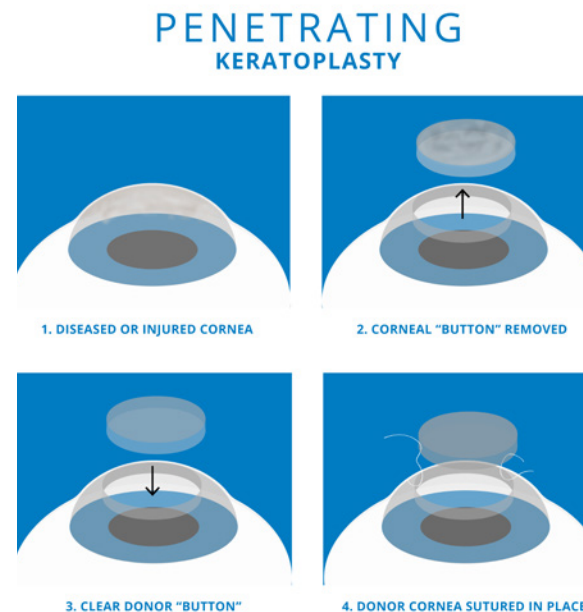
The Eye Bank accepts tissue from donors up to 75 years old.

Eye tissue must be recovered within 8 hours of the individual passing away.

There are over 400 British Columbians waiting for corneal transplants.

One eye donor can help:

- Up to 2 people with corneal transplants, and
- Up to 6 people with scleral transplants



How Can I Help?

Consider being an eye donor.

- Discuss your wishes with your family so they can honour your decision.
- To register your decision, visit the BC Donor Registry at: www.eyebankofbc.ca/resources and click "BC Donor Registry", or call 1-800-663-6189

Consider a financial donation to the Eye Bank of BC through the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

- Visit www.eyebankofbc.ca and click on the VGH & UBC Foundation link or call 604-875-4676.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is the whole eye transplanted?**
No, only the clear, front part of the eye (cornea) and/or the white part of the eye (sclera) are used for transplants. If consented in advance, portions of the eye not used for transplant can be used for research and teaching purposes. This can help in the future treatment of eye diseases.
- 2. What will the person look like after donation?**
The person will look natural like they are sleeping. Rarely, there may be a small amount of bruising or puffiness around the eyes. It is possible to have an open casket service.
- 3. Is the family told who receives the eye tissue(s)?**
No, the identity of the donor and recipient(s) are confidential.