



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Trends and Determinants in Eye Donation in Hong Kong**

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#### **Introduction**

Cornea transplantation is important in restoring vision among patients with corneal diseases. In Hong Kong, there has been a long-standing shortage of cornea. Under the Hospital Authority (HA), 465 patients are waiting for cornea transplants as of 2014. However, the annual average of donated corneas were approximately 240 over the last 10 years. Informed consent from family members of a potential deceased donor is mandatory for eye donation in Hong Kong. To enhance eye donation in Hong Kong, we need to understand the contributing patient and family factors.

#### **Objectives**

To describe trends and reasons for consent and refusal in familial consent for eye donation from 2008 to 2014 To identify factors affecting familial consent in eye donation

#### **Methodology**

This is a collaboration between the HA Eye Bank and the HKEH. Family members of potential donors approached by Eye Donation Coordinators from 2008 to 2014 were included. Reasons for consent and refusal, sociodemographics of the deceased and the family member approached were reviewed. The data acquired was summarized using descriptive statistics. Multiple logistic regression was employed to examine determinants for donation among cases from 2013 to 2014.

#### **Result**

From 2008 to 2014, a total of 1740 cases were identified. The overall consent rate was 36.8% and the consent rate did not significantly change throughout the years ( $p=0.237$ ). Among families who consented to donation, the most common reason was "the wish to help others" (86.0%), followed by "respect deceased's choice" (12.6%). Regarding reasons for refusal, the most common was "traditional Chinese culture to keep the body intact" (42.7%), and other reasons included communication problems (e.g. lack of expressed wish of the deceased or consensus in the family) and beliefs of the family (e.g. fear of donation bringing more sufferings or

disfigurement to the deceased, mistrust of hospital). Among 628 patients from 2013 to 2014, 22 patients (3.5%) were registered donors and all family members of registered donors consented to organ donation. Moreover, family members of the deceased were more likely to consent to eye donation when the deceased was female (OR 1.47,  $p=0.03$ ), with a do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order (OR 2.20,  $p<0.001$ ) and was admitted to oncology or palliative wards (OR 2.12,  $p=0.05$ ). In conclusion, the consent rate for eye donation did not significantly change from 2008 to 2014. Future promotional campaigns should address the underlying reasons for refusal.