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THE ART OF SUCCESSFUL CORNEAL DONATION

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SUMMARY

Successful corneal transplantation requires the impeccable art of facilitating corneal donation amongst cadaveric donors. Each stage is meticulously planned from identification of the potential donor to the act of tissue procurement and processing including the evaluation of its quality before determining its distribution and usage. The topic of corneal donation is difficult to broach to a grieving family and the ethical issues must be considered at every stage. It is also imperative to be aware of the potential risks before accepting a potential tissue donor and determining the feasibility of procuring the said tissue in order to preclude a situation where the tissue cannot be transplanted. The steps for effective enucleation to preserve the quality of donor corneal tissue will also be enumerated and the evaluation protocol to grade the tissue quality. This lecture will delineate the Malaysian experience in dealing with corneal donation and will include the various challenges we meet prior to acquiring corneal tissue.