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Comprehensive Center for Ocular Surface and Allergic Diseases

Purpose:

In Turkey, ocular surface diseases of diverse etiology and ocular allergies are quite common with significant sight-threatening complications. Correct diagnosis is critical in efficient treatment and prevention of vision loss. Morbidity related with severe ocular surface diseases and allergies warrant expert clinical intervention. Establishment of a comprehensive center for ocular surface and allergic diseases with collaboration among related disciplines, such as allergy-immunology, rheumatology, ENT and public health will bring a substantial solution for the early and correct diagnosis and treatment of these problems. By this joint effort, physicians and assistants will be trained to form expert groups and taskforce. Thus, visual morbidity and loss of manpower are expected to be efficiently controlled and quality of life will be raised in these patients.

Methods:

1. University Medical Faculty council approval for a comprehensive center establishment
2. Initial collaboration between various disciplines under the guidance of ophthalmologists
3. Elaboration of a core diagnostic center
4. Recruitment of trained physicians and technicians
5. Development of guidelines for diagnosis and treatment
6. Screening programs
7. Establishment of Ocular Allergy Diagnosis Subunit within Pediatric Allergy Immunology Laboratory (conjunctival challenge tests, prick tests, flow cytometry)
8. Patient flow from different disciplines
9. Monthly sum up meetings
10. Training program for the physicians and technicians
11. Cooperation with similar centers in EC and other countries
12. Raising funds for international multicenter studies and meetings on ocular surface and allergic diseases (summer school, etc), SIGs or courses in national/international meetings
13. Network for patient recruitment and expert forum

14. Networking and publications for public awareness (University TV and KonTV, newspapers)