Starting Keratoplasty in Mansoura Ophthalmic Center

For more than 10 years, keratoplasty operations had not been frequently done in Mansoura ophthalmology department due to lack of eye banks and difficulty in obtaining the grafts from inside Egypt because of legality issue.

Objective: to recur keratoplasty operations in Mansoura ophthalmic center, and offer this service to many indicated patients.

Methods:

1. Establishment a channel with eye banks from USA to supply the center with imported donor tissue having international standard parameters. They will be delivered to the center via an illegally registered company that insures a safe delivery of the tissues.

2. Much effort with the aid of management unit of Mansoura center was done to obtain the acceptance of Egyptian Ministry of Health to financially support the poor patients with total cost of the operations in the center.

3. Asking the residents and colleagues of the center to prepare a list of the patients who can get a benefit from keratoplasty operations and to do the needed preoperative investigations for them.

4. Preparations of the surgical instruments needed for such operations.

5. Starting to work and learning the staff having an interest to the corneal surgery.

6. Post operative care and follow up of the operated cases.

Results: 121 patients were operated during one year with success rate about 95%. Mean uncorrected (UCVA) and best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was highly satisfactory in comparison to preoperative records. At least 8 senior staff mastered the operation technique and many juniors staff and residents assist and actively share in the operations steps. More than one thesis was registered concerning the visual and survival outcome of keratoplasty in Mansoura ophthalmic center.

Conclusion: In our patient's population, excellent graft survival was achieved utilizing internationally acquired donor tissue for eyes with keratoconus, with good postoperative visual outcome implying an overall functional gain for the patients.