

Medical Contraindications for Ocular Tissue Donors

There is now an upper age limit of 80 years for eye donors. However depending on national stock levels, this can sometimes be increased.

Recovery of eye tissue and blood sample needs to take place within 24 hours of the patient passing away.

It is preferable that the deceased be placed into refrigeration as soon as possible. Please do NOT place damp gauze over the patient's eyes. Just ensure that they are closed.

Below are the main criteria for donation but the list is not exhaustive and further advice may be required.

Infections

- HIV/AIDS
- Viral hepatitis (B,C,E)
- HTLV
- Seropositivity: HIV, HBsAg, HBc, HCV, HTLV or Syphilis
- Behaviour leading to risk of contracting HIV, HTLV, hepatitis B or C
- Active viral encephalitis or encephalitis of unknown origin, viral meningitis
- Rabies
- Congenital Rubella
- Active tuberculosis
- Active malaria
- Reye's syndrome
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy

Previous surgery/medical treatment

- Receipt of human organ or tissue transplant
- Receipt of dura matter or brain/spinal surgery before August 1992
- Receipt of human pituitary derived hormones
- Receipt of cornea graft or sclera

Unknown aetiology and CNS disorders

- Death from unknown cause
- CJD, vCJD and central nervous system disease of unknown aetiology (eg, Alzheimer's disease, other dementias, Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone disease)

Malignancies

- Leukaemia
- Lymphoma
- Myeloma and other myeloproliferative disorders and syndromes
- Metastatic Malignant Melanoma

Intrinsic Eye Disease

- Ocular inflammation
- Any congenital or acquired disorders of the Eye or previous ocular surgery (including corneal laser surgery)
- Retinoblastoma
- Malignant tumours or ocular metastases in the anterior segment of the eye.

For more information please contact the Queen Victoria Hospital eye bank team by email: QVH.eyebank@NHS.net or call 01342 414220.