

Did you know?

- During donation the whole eye needs to be removed, so that the cornea can be separated. The eye is never transplanted whole.
- Cornea donation does not affect how a donor looks following donation.
- Cornea donation does not delay a donor's funeral.
- Specialist nurses always speak to the family to see if there are considerations around someone's faith, beliefs or culture in respect to funeral plans.
- Almost anyone can donate their corneas. Age, poor eyesight or medical conditions, including cancer, are not necessarily a barrier to donation.

Register and share your decision

If you would like to be able to give someone the gift of sight after you die, please register your decision at **organdonation.nhs.uk**, on the **NHS App** or by calling **0300 123 23 23**.

Tell your closest family or friends about your decision so that they know to support it, as well as the hospice or hospital staff looking after you.

If you are a healthcare worker, or relative of someone who has recently died, and you wish to refer a cornea donor please call the **Tissues National Referral Centre** on **0800 432 0559**

For more information on cornea donation visit **organdonation.nhs.uk** or call **0300 123 23 23**



@nhsorgandonor



Blood and Transplant

The amazing gift of sight



Laura has had cornea transplants in both of her eyes;
"I feel forever grateful to my donor and their family.
I can now see my son's lovely little face!"



Donating your corneas can help people to see again

Every year thousands of patients across the UK have their sight saved or restored through the generosity of cornea donors.

The cornea is the clear tissue at the front of your eye that lets light in so you can see.

Some patients have damaged, diseased or misshapen corneas which affect their vision. For people like Laura, pictured right, corneal transplants are often life changing.

The donation

Donation can take place at a hospital, hospice or funeral home, or following death at a patient's home, up to 24 hours after death.

To enable donation to go ahead, a healthcare professional involved in the patient's care will notify the Tissue Donation Team as soon as possible after the death.

If donation is possible, a Specialist Nurse for Tissue Donation will check the NHS Organ Donor Register. If the patient hasn't opted out of organ and tissue donation, their family will be contacted to discuss donation and check that the medical history they have been given is complete and accurate.

Unless the patient has recorded a decision not to donate, their family will be expected to support cornea donation going ahead.

Specially trained tissue donation staff will ensure that a natural appearance for the donor is maintained, working with great care. Following donation relatives and friends can still spend time with someone who has donated, and funeral arrangements are not affected.

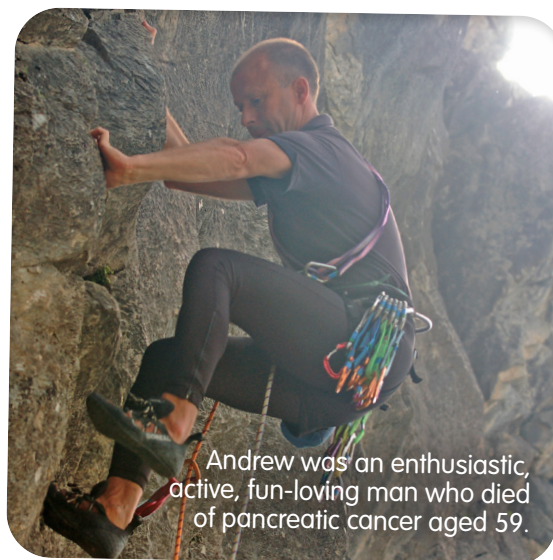


Laura's story

Laura had a cornea transplant in her right eye when her vision deteriorated and then when the same unexplained problem developed in her left eye, she had a second transplant.

She said: *"Had I not had both corneas transplanted, I probably wouldn't have been able to continue in my job, and therefore wouldn't have met my partner and probably wouldn't even have my son!"*

"I feel forever grateful to my donor and their family. Words are not enough to express my gratitude."



Andrew's story

Andrew died of pancreatic cancer.

His daughter Vivien said: *"The doctors told us the one thing they could safely give to a patient was his corneas, from his eyes."*

"We had a letter to say both of Dad's corneas had successfully been used for transplant. It's a miracle to us that two people somewhere have had their sight restored or saved because of Dad."

Andrew was an enthusiastic, active, fun-loving man who died of pancreatic cancer aged 59.