

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
OCULAR TISSUE ADVISORY GROUP

Tissue and Eye Services Update Report - June 2016

Strategy Refresh

Tissue and Eye Services (TES) refresh of the Strategic Plan 2013 - 2018 was approved by the NHSBT Board in May 2016. This refresh included NHSBT's plans for Eye Banking which was not previously part of the Tissue Services strategy.

- Super Centre Strategy
- Ocular Specialists
- Demand planning
- Filton Eye Bank

NHSBT Ocular Newsletter

NHSBT issued version 2 of their Ocular Newsletter in March.

Feedback has been positive and we plan to have issue 3 available at the end of the year. Topics for issue 3 include,

- Amnion
- TEPSOD
- Donor Advisory
- Research

Current Activity

Corneal activity across the supply chain is under daily review. This includes referral activity as well as retrieval and processing capability and current stocks. The strategic intent is to maximise donation potential of quality eye tissue to consistently meet recipient demand.

TES are required to have 350 corneas within NHSBT eye banks at any one time in order to meet current demand (stock as of 17/06/16 is 295).

The target for TES is 70 eye donors per week. Donation rates have increased over the last quarter however there is still work to be done to ensure consistency of donation rates (61 donations in the week of the 10/06/16)

Pre Cut Corneas - DSAEK

Manchester Eye Bank (MEB) -NHSBT now offer a DSAEK service as routine to ophthalmic surgeons in the UK who wish to perform this procedure. The MEB use the Gebauer microkeratome to pre-cut corneas; this equipment uses disposable blades that can cut at different corneal depths. The size of the blades ranges from 350 μm to 600 μm in 50 μm increments. As a result the posterior lamella will have a predicted thickness between 75 μm and 124 μm . All corneas will be stored in dextran-medium and will have the cap placed back on top of the cornea in the same orientation as before the cut.

DMEK

Bristol eye bank is in the process of validating a DMEK procedure. There is an update on this process later in the agenda.

Filton Eye Bank Relocation

The project to relocate Bristol Eye Bank to the NHSBT Filton site is progressing well.

In order to reduce the stock of tissue at Bristol eye bank prior to the relocation, Bristol stopped receiving tissue at the beginning of June with all processing activity being diverted to Manchester eye bank.

Bristol continued to issue tissue and issued their last cornea the week of the 6th June.

The actual relocation into Filton is due to take place early August.

