

Taplejung Surgical Eye Camp Report

Date of Eye Camp: 25- 27 January, 2009

Eye Camp spot: Dechen Dongla Memorial Eye Care Center, Taplejung

Financial support for the Eye Camp: Seva Foundation and Lions Club, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Technical support: Lumbini Eye Institute/ SRASEH, Bhairahawa, Nepal.

The Eye Camp team departed from Lumbini on 22 January and night halt at Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital Lahan. Second day Night Halt in Phidim and 3rd day (24 Jan) team reached to the eye camp spot in Taplejung.

Eye camp Team members:

1. Team Leader Dr. Anil Sherchan
2. OA Supervisor Mr. Narayan B.K.
3. OA. Netra Aryal
4. OA. Susan nakarmi
5. OA Avhijit Sarkar
6. OA Kaji Man Gurung
7. ANM O.T Assistant: Sarmila Udyia
8. Eye Worker Lokendra Pratap Sen
9. Helper, Deu bahadur Rai
10. Helper Ram Daresh Yadav
11. Driver Ramesh Bajarcharya



Publicity

Eye camp message was broadcasted through Tamor F.M. Radio. Tamor F.M. station was built recently and started broadcasting local news and events. Most of the people like to listen local F.M, the reason they give is: it deals about the local issues and broadcasting local news as well as national news in local languages. Surgical eye camp related Pamphlets also distributed through students, School teachers, health personnel and community leaders. Eye camp message was sent through the patients those who are attending at the primary Eye Care Center for treatment. Formal informal leaders also requested to spread the eye camp message through their networks. We have interviewed with the patients in the OPD about the source of information, most of the patients replied that they received information from the Tamor F.M. Radio. This year the patients flow was very high compared to previous years, the main reason may be the local F.M. Many people received information and attended at the eye camp to check up their eyes.



Patients waiting for registration

Accommodation for the operated patients and their guardian:

Accommodation for the operated patients was arranged at the district hospital Taplejung. Dechen Dongla Memorial Eye Care Center is in the premises of the district hospital Taplejung. OPD was arranged in the permanent OPD of Primary Eye Care Center (Dechen Dongl Memorial Eye Care Center) and operation was done at the OT of District Hospital Taplejung. Food for the operated patients were provided free of cost with the support of Lions club and local community.



Patients Care

OPD (screening) is managed by the ophthalmic assistants Mr. Susan Nakarmi and Mr. Netra Aryal. Complicated cases were referred to the Ophthalmologist. The service is delivered as the same quality as in the eye hospital as far as possible. Eye camp was conducted in the Dechen Dongla Memorial Eye Care Center Taplejung. OPD was arranged in the same OPD of the Primary Eye care center and surgery was performed at the OT of the district general Hospital Taplejung. Operated patients were kept at the Ward of district general hospital. Spectacles were provided with affordable cost. Medicines were provided to all the patients free of cost. Those patients who were not having money for the spectacles, they were given free of cost. In the eye camp we have examined 915 Patients in the OPD and 64 cataract and 11 minor surgeries were performed. Fortunately all most all the patients received good vision after cataract surgery. There was no serious complication during surgery and postoperative period. Till 15 February, 20 cataract operated patients came for the follow up at Dechen Dongla Memorial Eye Care Center, follow up vision of the patients are very good and they are very happy with their vision.



Community Participation:

Dechen Dongala Memorial Eye Care Center is managed by the local NNJS Taplejung. Publicity of surgical eye camp, accommodation for the Eye Camp Patients as well as accommodation for the eye camp team is arranged by the local Nepla Netrajyoti Sangh. They also made an arrangement of volunteers to support the eye camp team. Red Cross volunteers, school teachers as well as local NNJS members were worked as a volunteer during the eye camp. Local NNJS also coordinated with the district development committee and various village development committees and arranged locally available resources such as blankets for the admitted patients, heater at the operation room, blankets for the eye cam team, food for all the operated patients, and accommodation for the eye camp team.

1. Diseases wise OPD

S.No	Diseases	Male	Female	Total
1	Cataract (Adult)	53	56	109
2	Congenital cataract	1	0	1
3	Glaucoma	3	2	5
4	Refractive Error	58	61	119
5	Conjunctivitis	68	74	142
6	Xerophthalmia	2	3	5
7	Trachoma	0	0	0
8	Both Eye Pseudophakia	5	5	10
9	Others (Chalazion, CDC, NSI etc)	240	266	506
10	One Eye Incurable Blind	8	8	16
11	Both Eye Incurable Blind	1	1	2

2. Age wise OPD patients

Age group	Male	Female	total
0-15	72	63	135
16-30	102	203	305
31-45	60	96	156
46-60	57	75	132
61-75	82	62	144
76 above	21	22	43
Total	394	521	915

3. Surgeries Type

S.No	Categories	Male	Female	Total
1	Cataract ECCE with PC IOL	42	22	64
2	Glaucoma	0	0	0
3	Pterygium	2	0	2
4	Entropion	3	1	4
5	Others (Chalazion)	2	2	4
6	Evisceration	0	1	1

4. Status of visual acuity (post operative visual acuity at the time of discharge)

Category of vision	Male	Female	Total
Less than 3/60	3	4	7
>3/60 to < 6/60	3	2	5
> 6/60 to < 6/18	17	13	30
> 6/18	18	4	22

Complication during surgery: Vitreous loss: 1

Reasons not having less than 3/60 vision after surgery:

(a) Corneal stria: 4

(b) Posterior segment problem: 2

Postoperative complication:

(a) High IOP= 1

Preoperative visual acuity

Category of vision	Male	Female	Total
Less than 3/60	31	18	49
>3/60 to < 6/60	3	1	4
> 6/60 to < 6/18	7	4	11
> 6/18	0	0	0

5. Cataract patients attended at the OPD of surgical eye camp

S.No	Description	Male	Female	Total
1	Total # of operable cataract (advised for surgery)	43	24	67
2	Total number of cataract operated in that camp	42	22	64
3	Total # of cataract not accepted for surgery	1	2	3

Reasons for not accepting surgery:

(a) Medical reasons (i) Diabetic: (all male) (ii) Hypertension: (all female)

(b) Not having escort: 1

(c) Other reasons: (CDC): 2

6. Age wise surgery

Age group	Male	Female	total
0-15	2	1	3
16-30	1	1	2
31-45	5	2	7
46-60	7	3	10
61-75	17	11	28
Above 76	9	5	14

Conclusion:

77% of the total surgical patients (Eyes) were less than 3/60 visual acuity before surgery. In other word they were blind before surgery. Right after surgery (the second day of surgery) at the time of discharge 34% patients has got almost normal vision and 86% of the total patients (eyes) has got better than 6/60 visual acuity. This year we have got significant cataract cases with corneal scar. Fine white operable cataracts were found minimum. Since last 10 years we have been organizing surgical eye camp regularly may be that reason backlog of cataract blind is going down in Taplejung. The second reason may be due to peace and having good transport rich patients might have self gone to Mechi Eye Care Center for surgery. Female Utilization of eye care services in the surgical eye camp particularly in OPD is high, 57 % female were in the OPD. Total 915 Patients has got an opportunity to check up their eyes and treatment at their door step level and 64 persons were restored their sight free of cost. Post operative medicine and sun glasses also given to the operated patients free of cost.

Some Photographs:



Crossing Ferry Kosi River



87 years women with cataract

