



GLAUCOMA SOCIETY OF INDIA

Presidents Office : Suraj Eye Institute
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President

Dr. Vinay Nangia, Nagpur
Tel : 09890020804

March 6th, 2016.

Nagpur. India.

Secretary

Dr. Prateep Vyas, Indore
email: vyasprateep@yahoo.co.in
Tel : 03005900777

Dear All:

Treasurer

Dr. Manish Shah, Mumbai
email: shaheye@rediffmail.com
Tel : 09820032274

As the World Glaucoma Week begins to be celebrated from March 6th to 12th, we look at the problem of glaucoma that faces India. As a country of more than 1.2 billion, there are now expected to be about 11.27 million people with glaucoma. 95% of them do not know that they have glaucoma. This figure does not include secondary glaucomas and congenital glaucoma and neither does it include the full spectrum of angle closure disease.

ZONAL MEMBERS

Central Zone

Dr Aditya Agrawal
Tel : 09826064746

70% of the glaucoma is in the rural areas and is almost all undiagnosed. More than 90% of glaucoma subjects are potentially under the threat of visual impairment and blindness. A sight that is so common is of end stage cupping in our rural community patients, that are brought in for sight restoration from cataract. This is the hallmark of rural glaucoma. The threat of rapid blindness in Primary Angle Closure Glaucoma is even more significant.

North Zone

Dr Kirti Singh, New Delhi.
Tel : 09968604334

The World Glaucoma Week was designed to address this problem. Therefore the World Glaucoma Week is even more significant for a country like India, where we are aware of our limitations in addressing the issues of awareness, issues of early diagnosis and also that of affordability, accessibility and therefore eventually of 'holistic management'.

Dr Deven Tuli

Tel : 09871315142

West Zone

Dr Sunil Jain, Mumbai
Tel : 09821136106

Over the years the World Glaucoma Week has evolved to an innovative and community inclusive event. This year is different, we are even more ambitious and motivated to celebrate this event. The number of events held on March 6th across the country highlights the commitment of each of us to our community and to our country. It gives a sense that India has reached an 'inflection point' in our crusade against glaucoma.

Dr Sunil Jain

Tel : 09821136106

East Zone

Dr Dipanjan Pal
Tel : 09903281766

Dr Surojit Chakraborty
Tel : 09830089100

The great push that is required is to get the patient to come to the doctor or get the doctor to go to the patient. Proactive efforts at reaching out to the patient and diagnosing glaucoma are in evolution. Unless we make our eye health systems more accessible to the communities, there will be no other way except to look at accessing our patients and identifying means of diagnosing our glaucoma subjects. These are topics of significant debate but that debate should continue and evidence based knowledge created to deal with the catastrophe that is lurking in 11.27 million households.

South Zone

Dr George Puthuran
Tel : 09443043674

T Raveendra
Tel : 09440043534



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There are great leaps to be taken in glaucoma management. We often debate about early surgery and hesitate to take the step, because the patient may not come back for follow up. We also debate the reality of starting medical treatment and dont know if the patient will be compliant, be able to buy his medications regularly and again, will he ever come back for a follow up.

The Challenges we face are immense. Eventually the golden worlds of 'affordability and accessibility' remain constants in our endeavours to do better as 'Sight Savers'. The Algorithms of doing the right thing for our glaucoma patients is an immense clinical and logistical excercise.

In essence I would like to call upon each and everyone one of you - as members of All India Ophthalmic Society - to do your best in your situation. Even as all of us strive collectively to meet Glaucoma - 'Head On.'

With best wishes and kind regards.

Vinay Nangia
President - Glaucoma Society of India.

