



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Caring for the community since 1922...



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Delhi | Alwar | Lakhimpur Khiri | Meerut | Ranikhet | Saharanpur | Vrindavan

www.sceh.net

Newsletter Issue: 24

Retinoblastoma Awareness Week @ SCEH



The Retinoblastoma awareness week (14th - 20th May 2023) saw SCEH network organize several activities and undertake some new initiatives to raise awareness about the disease in the community and amongst patients visiting the base hospital and the satellite centres.



The theme for RB day event was **"Canvas of Hope"** where our little warriors painted their dreams on the canvas with the brush of hope and colours of faith.

Retinoblastoma : From identification to cure, An integrated approach

Retinoblastoma is the most common eye cancer in children with an estimated average annual incidence of 1 in 15000 livebirths.

Early diagnosis and prompt management following a standardized protocol is the key to improving the survival of these children.

Lack of awareness about the early signs and symptoms of this cancer precludes an early diagnosis. Also, being a rare tumor, the newborn or children eye screening programs conducted via both government initiatives or private sectors are currently not well focused on screening and early detection.

Well-equipped treatment centers providing protocol based treatment are available in only selected locations of the country and patient often have to travel long distance to avail the treatment. In addition to the distance, the expensive treatment is beyond the reach of most patients from poor socio economic strata among whom the cancer is more prevalent. In the absence of clear referral pathways, half of the diagnosed children get treated at primary or secondary level with suboptimal and non- protocol based treatment.

Other factors like the social stigma associated with eye removal, lack of readily available visual and prosthetic rehabilitation facilities are the other barriers in improving the survival outcome of these patients. Lack of awareness and the myth associated with the disease also hinders acceptance of appropriate treatment.

Keeping in mind the high unmet need for protocol based treatment and having its network spread across the densely populated surrounding states in the form of six secondary centers and 66 vision

centers, an **Integrated Children's Eye Cancer Centre**, was set up in 2015 at Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. SCEH is now a super specialty eye care institute of North India offering multidisciplinary and affordable treatment to eye cancer patients under one roof.

Though the survival outcomes have improved over the years, various barriers continue to cause 30% treatment noncompliance. Understanding the treatment barriers and minimizing them for example, by providing travel and lodging support is also an essential requirement to ensure treatment compliance. And with the support of USAID's Child Blindness Program, we are able to increase compliance of our patients and our current approach includes the following:

- **Train and orient the vision technicians and community health workers about early signs of retinoblastoma and need for prompt referral.**
- **A robust referral pathway to facilitate and support prompt transport of the suspected and diagnosed patients.**
- **Socioeconomic barriers identification to the treatment by conducting parent/family interview at and address them to improve treatment compliance and reduce abandonment.**
- **Scaling up the facilities at Centre to provide advanced treatment facilities aimed at improved survival and eye salvage affordable and available to all retinoblastoma children.**
- **Maintaining continuity of care by providing visual and prosthetic rehabilitation services to all children who require it following completion of treatment.**

Facilitate and support travel and lodging

- Dr. Sima Das

Director, Oculoplasty & Ocular Oncology Services

In the last 2 years:

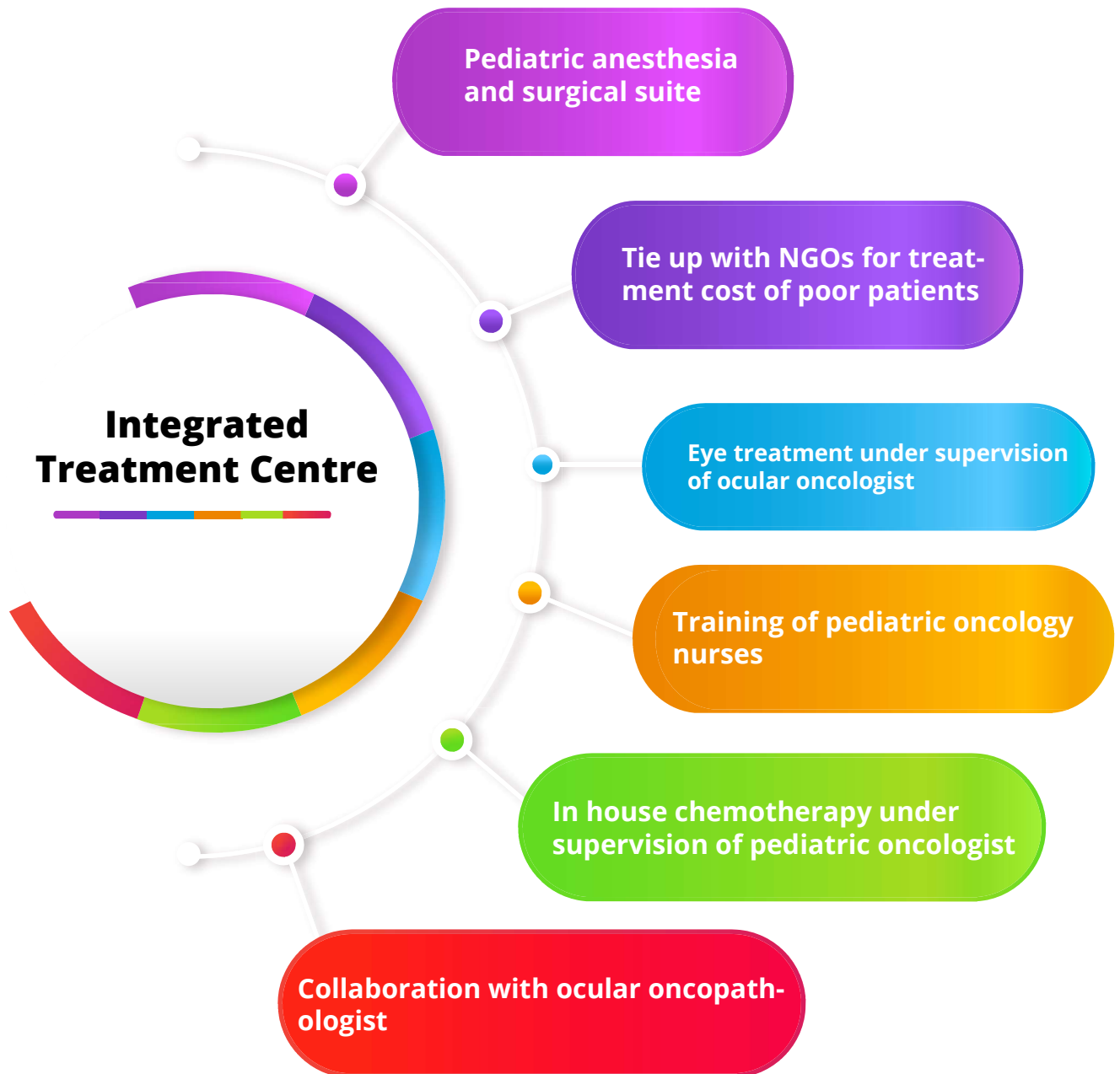
2032 healthcare providers trained, **260** doctors

18461 children screened - **18** referrals from internal network & **12** from outreach

122 new children of retinoblastoma treated

Treatment compliance -
119/122

48% female children amongst treated



International Nurses Day Celebration



International Nurses Day celebrated across SCEH Network to thank the nurses for their tireless efforts and contributions at SCEH and highlight the contribution of nurses to the healthcare sector

Inauguration of Vision Centre



Inauguration of SCEH'S 66th Vision Centre at Farah, Mathura District with the support from Standard Chartered Bank on 17th May 2023

SCEH Optical Store



SCEH Delhi opens Optical Store to provide quality prescription glasses & lenses at affordable prices

AIOC Awards

*SCEH At The 81st Annual Conference of the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOC) 2023
(11 May - 14 May)*



Dr. Virendra Sangwan

Received the Dr. G. N. Rao Endowment oration award

& he spoke about his professional journey & development of a clinician scientist



Dr. Manisha Agarwal

Narsing Rao Award For Best Free Paper In Uvea



Dr. Sima Das

*Oncology Best paper award for paper on
Mutlicentric RB Study*



Dr. Arpan Gandhi

*First Ocular Pathologists Symposium in
an AIOC meet*



Dr. Obaidur Rehman

*'International Ophthalmic Heroes of India 2023'
by the All India Ophthalmological Society*



Dr. Tanya Jain

*Appreciation Certificate for
Ophthalmic Photography*



Dr. Isha Aggarwal

*Best Case Presentation In AIOS in
Hyde Park Session*

Developing Indicators and Work Plan for Technology-Enabled Vision Centers

International Eye Foundation (IEF) in collaboration with SCEH organised the workshop on "Developing Indicators and Work Plan for Technology-Enabled Vision Centers". The objective of the workshop was to bring together experts, stakeholders, and practitioners in the field of eye care to reaffirm relationships, develop harmonized work plans, refine indicators and processes for monitoring and evaluation, and identify measurable outcomes and expected learning in the context of technology-enabled vision centers.

25 participants from IEF, SCEH, Aravind Eye Care, Madurai, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Greater Lions Eye Hospital, Siliguri, Susrut Eye Foundation, Kolkata, Bansara Eye Care Centre, Shillong and the



Udhampur Rotary Eye & General Welfare Foundation, Udhampur attended the workshop.

The USAID Childhood Blindness Program

"Comprehensive Child Eye Health Program in Urban slums of Delhi during COVID times"

SCEH concluded the paediatric eye screening and comprehensive eye health service program in the month of May 2023. This program was specifically designed to cater services to children during the COVID times when all the outreach activities including school eye screening programs across India were suspended. After waiting for a year for the COVID situation to change, and not getting any respite, the pediatric ophthalmology and public health department of SCEH decided to resort to a door-to-door screening strategy, thereby taking the services right to the childrens' houses. The USAID generous funding opportunity came at the right moment and the journey of "Comprehensive Child Eye Health Program in Urban slums of Delhi during COVID times" began.

This project has made a significant impact on the lives of many children by identifying and addressing potential vision problems at an early stage. By providing access to eye screenings and necessary interventions, this initiative has played a crucial role in ensuring the healthy development of children's vision. In the past 15 months, seven teams of vision screeners and counsellors screened 112667 children in the Bhanpura region of New Delhi. Among those screened 7599 children were identified with eye ailments and referred for additional services, 3964 children received eyeglasses and 281 surgical procedures were performed. This project also went a step forward and provided services to 239 children with low vision, dispensing 100 low vision aids at no-cost. The project also helped raise awareness about the importance of regular eye screenings among parents, community health workers, certified ophthalmic paramedics, and the broader community.

Throughout the tenure of the project, we embraced challenges, reflected on the processes, took feedback from the team and the stakeholders, documented our learnings, shared, discussed, and continuously improved. We initiated three research studies during this project. Each of these studies would provide answers and practical solutions to improvise our paediatric eye outreach programs in future.

The dedication and hard work of the team behind this project deserve special recognition. They were persistent through bad weather, changing school policies and festivals and their efforts have made a tangible difference in their lives of these children.



The Team : Dr. Suma Ganesh, Dr. Shailja Tibrewal, Dr. Soveeta Rath, Dr. Priya Goyal, Dr. Richa Sharma, Dr. Shalini Gupta, Dr. Poonam Sharma, Dr. Vaisakhi Prasannan, Dr. Bhavika Bansal, Dr. Shalinder Sabherwal, Mr. Sunil Kumar, Ms Shivani, Ms Priya, Mr Goswami, Mr Shiv, Mr Ved Prakash, Mr Anthony, Mr Zeeshan, Mr Nasim, Ms Sonia Srivastava.

USAID Visit



with our staff. They visited Two Delhi government hospitals, which have an ongoing SCEH Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) program. During our annual retinoblastoma event the CBP team appreciated the work being carried out at SCEH for prevention of childhood blindness..

Sukarya Kaizen – Story of Impact

Implementing new technology can seem challenging but using technology can benefit an organization in many ways like saving time and effort, increasing reach and improving communication.

The Donor Relations department at SCEH was facing trouble build its network, as email address of every patient or visitor was not available and engaging with the existing donor base was also a tedious exercise.

Ms Yasha Hasan, a Management Trainee at SCEH's Management Training Academy, liaised with internal team, other departments and an external agency to coordinated the integration of WhatsApp for Business in the department. This lead to more efficient communication with stakeholders and improved engagement through features such as automated messaging, quick replies, and message templates.



Through WhatsApp for Business, the department is now able to selectively reach out to patients whose email addresses are not available. It has enhanced outreach capabilities, expanded our target audience, increasing donor engagement, and is helping us spread our organization's mission to people around the globe.

Patient Story

A 48 years old gentleman, presented to SCEH with a proliferative lesion in front of left ear which involved his ear lobule and post auricular area. He had already visited multiple government hospitals but his surgery was not being scheduled while his lesion was increasing in size. He also had a skin condition, called discoid lupus erythematosus, which had resulted in whitish patches of discoloration on his skin. Biopsy of the lesion showed it to be squamous cell carcinoma of the skin. Here, at our ENT department, he underwent wide local excision of lesion with superficial parotidectomy along with neck dissection and reconstruction by cervicofacial flap at a very subsidized rate. But the patient also required adjuvant treatment in the form of concurrent chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which he could not afford. The doctor's at our ENT department went out of their way to arrange early slots for radiotherapy and chemotherapy at a government hospital. He is now treated and free of cancer and he is one of our very happy patients.



- Story contributed by Dr. Poonam Singhla

Humans of SCEH

I joined SCEH in 2011 by a pure stroke of luck. My brother's friend, Pawan Sharma, used to work at SCEH, and he informed me about the hospital. I came to give the interview and I was selected.

I come from a small town called Deoria in Uttar Pradesh and did my schooling from there. We are a total of six siblings, with one brother still settled in the village while the rest of us have migrated to different places. Since my childhood, I wanted to be a part of the medical field. My brother-in-law was a doctor in Azamgarh, and I stayed with him for a few years. Listening to him talk about his work, further arose my interest.

In these 12 years at SCEH, I have worked with almost every department. I have worked in the operating theater, assisting surgeons from all departments including ENT, cataract, oculoplasty, Paediatrics, Cornea, Glaucoma and now I am working with Retina. I like the fact that I am continuously learning new things.

When I first joined the two year ONA training, Mr. Sandeep from the wetlab was my batchmate. From our existing ONA batch, only two of us are still working here.. It's good to have a long lasting friendship



at your work place. I also did an OT technician course from The All India Institute at Ghaziabad.

I like being here. Me, my wife and our two children are now settled here. SCEH has a very friendly environment and everyone comes to help when one is in need. I like the encouraging words of my seniors. I remember once assisting Dr. Dubey, the knot of the suture she was putting, kept coming loose. I placed a forceps on the knot, to keep it in place while she took the second knot. She was very pleased at this. It's experiences like these that make me want to keep working here. I don't dream big, but I like each day to be interesting.

- Pramod Kumar Gupta

Senior ONA Staff
Team Leader



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