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Tele vision centers: The future of ophthalmology

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Tele-Vision centers can be a very good strategy to provide specialist services in periphery and to prevent avoidable blindness particularly due to corneal lesions, retinopathy and glaucoma. An ophthalmologist can provide services to many remote places at a time, through Tele-vision center, saving traveling time, money and trouble of patient. Ophthalmic assistant can provide better services under direct guidance of ophthalmologist. Moreover the patient is satisfied with talking to the ophthalmologist, hence acceptance is more. Tele-vision center is a vision center with primary eye care facility; photo slit lamp, non mydriatic fundus camera, non-contact tonometer with telecommunication between the ophthalmic assistant at vision center and ophthalmologist sitting in hospital. The

ophthalmologist sees the case report, slit lamp and fundus images, talks to the patient and prescribes online with digital signature. Ophthalmic assistant prints this prescription, gives and explains to the patient. 5 such centers are attached to one hospital. Services provided are eye check-up and treatment refraction and prescription of glasses, medicines, referral and follow up of cataract cases, registration for keratoplasty, screening for glaucoma and retinopathy, consultation with ophthalmologist-health education. The Tele-vision center can greatly help in combating dearth of ophthalmologists and optimizing services of available ophthalmologists.

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