



21 March 2020, 6.00PM

Dear Doctor,

We are all in tune with the happenings in our state, in the country and in the world at large.

COVID 19 is causing a havoc and there is loss of life and widespread disruption

We should fight this and protect our people.

Till now, the successful countries are those who have **acted fast and acted firmly**. Unfortunately, many are not in that league....including, probably India.

One of the reasons for this may be 'normalcy bias', a very common human reaction (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normalcy_bias).

Let us not get into the trap like many..... let us be wiser.

KOS has gone through the prime minister's message, a lot of literature, discussions on various fora, directives issued by national/international ophthalmic bodies, Karnataka state govt directives etc and is of the following opinion

1. Fighting COVID 19 is the **TOP priority** and everything else including financials is a remote second
2. Hospitals/Clinics to see **emergency patients only** and reschedule all that can wait for a later date, may be beyond 31st March 2020. In eye care, let us stick to emergencies without stretching arguments. Each one of you are well qualified to distinguish an emergency and an annexure for the same is not needed.

3. **All elective surgeries to be postponed.** This includes routine **cataract surgery and refractive** procedures. Hon'ble PM's speech was clear on this. Any body doing elective surgeries during this period, should things go wrong, may be pulled up under various sections..... just be aware . Cataracts can wait, COVID 19 may not. (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/AdvisoryforHospitalsandMedicalInstitutions.pdf>)
4. Follow all the guidelines being given from time to time by Ministry of health, [GOI](#) and [GOK](#) The websites have the full details.
5. Please take care of salaries of staff during these tough times.
6. Make **Janata Curfew** called for on 22nd March 2020 a grand success. Let us thank all the medical personnel and many other non medical professionals working tirelessly to fight COVID19.
7. Keep your doctors and staff safe and in good frame of mind. If situation demands, we will all be working as doctors in COVID wards and our hospitals/clinics may be converted for NON COVID medical specialities. Who knows tomorrow !!!!. May be we can avert this by acting today.
8. Spread safety TIPS, keep your circles well informed and happy. This is an unprecedented scenario and we should **face it together**, firmly and swiftly.
9. Support KOS. Let us fight COVID 19.

We appreciate your understanding of the call given by your society. As a country, we are going through a tough time. Each one of us can help in our own way, without any ifs and buts.

Our sacrifices and timely actions make this profession a NOBLE one.

Thanking you

Yours in the service of nation

Dr Rajashekar Y L
President
Karnataka Ophthalmic Society

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