

Nepal – Eye Care and Blindness Prevention

“Cataract surgery now possible in 10 minutes”

“Training on surgical technique end”

“Visionary innovation”

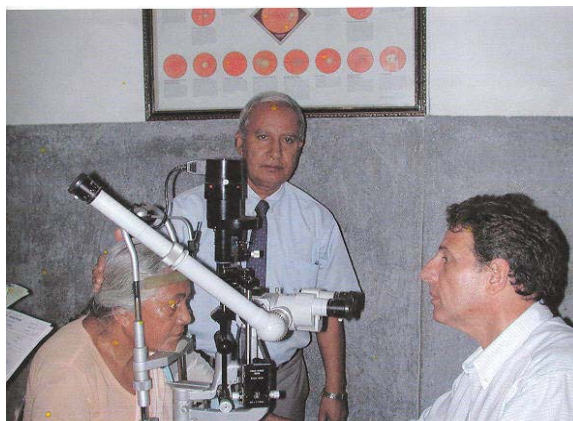
“Israeli ophthalmologists share their expertise”

“Novel cataract operation method introduced in Kathmandu”

These were some of the headlines in Nepal at the end of August, 2002, following a week-long visit by Israeli eye doctors to the Nepal Eye Hospital (NEH), sent by MASHAV in cooperation with the Swiss foundation Corvus. Dr. Dov Weinberger and Dr. Moshe Lusky, aided by Technician Shlomo Apoteker, presented a Training and Demonstration Program to acquaint Nepalese ophthalmologists with a new surgical technique – phaco-emulsification – where cataracts can be replaced with healthy lenses in less time, allowing the patient to return to work the next day. The Israeli doctors performed operations on 48 people and donated 100 lenses to patients free of cost.

Dr. Banshi Krishna Malla, Medical Director of the NEH and President of the Nepal Ophthalmic Society, noted that cataracts are the most common cause of blindness in Nepal and a public health problem, with surgery the only option to restore sight. Israeli Ambassador to Nepal H. E. Avraham Nir, who had taken the initiative of bringing the Israeli doctors to Kathmandu, said that the visit would boost medical cooperation between the two countries.

MASHAV has conducted other Blindness Prevention activities as part of Israel’s commitment to WHO’s Vision 2020 program this year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Marshall Islands, Burkina Faso and Angola.



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