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Ophthalmologist
Glaucoma Specialist

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OAO 2023
Ophthalmic Medical Technology Conference

Ophthalmic Medical Missions

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Why

What

How

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How many people have vision loss?

1.1 Billion

World population
7.8 Billion

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What do you mean by “vision loss”?

Moderate	<20/70 to 20/200
Severe	<20/200 to 20/400
Blindess	<20/400

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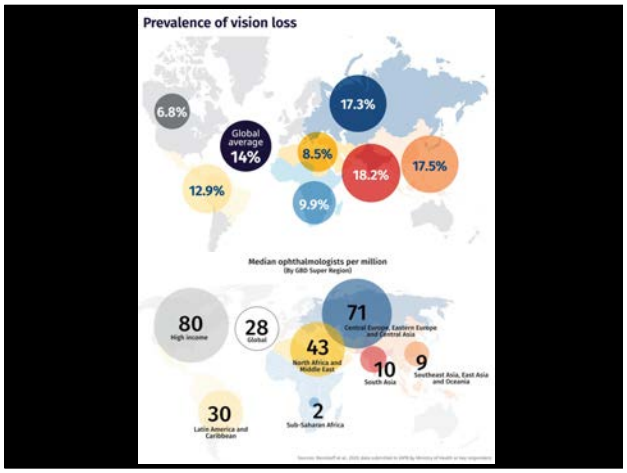

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Volunteer Motivations

- Feels good to give back
- Learn new surgical procedures
- See advanced cases
- Time-limited commitment
- Donate supplies & equipment
- Adventure / Tourism

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When Helping Hurts

- lack of cultural awareness and humility
  - leads to offensive behavior and attitudes of superiority
- disparity between local needs & visitor offerings
  - ➢ needs assessment
- carrying out medical procedures without adequate training and/or expertise
- lack of partnership and mutual learning
  - displacing & devaluing local providers

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When Helping Hurts

- creation of dependency on external resources
  - meds, surgical supplies, equipment / technology
    - cutting edge vs obsolete/expired
  - limit these to what is locally available &/or sustainable
- lack of continuity of services
- failure to arrange adequate follow-up of medical and surgical treatment
- no evaluation of impact / effectiveness

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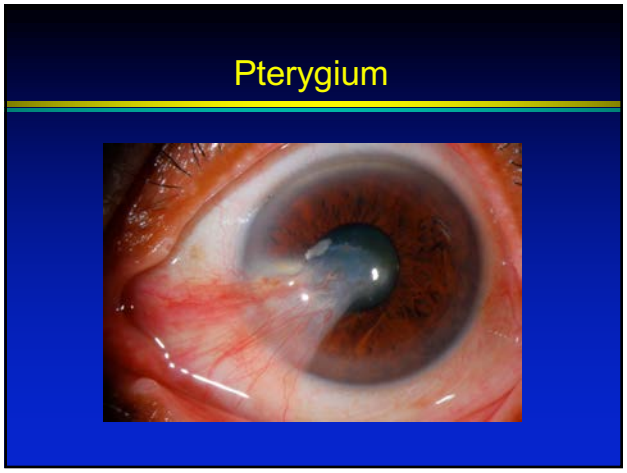

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Trachoma

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Trachoma

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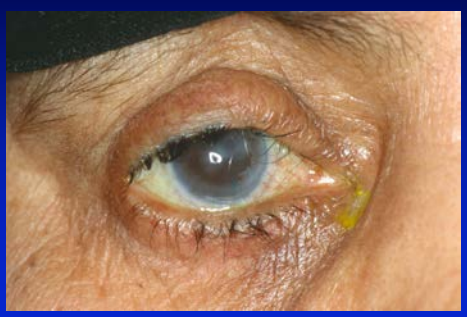
Trachoma



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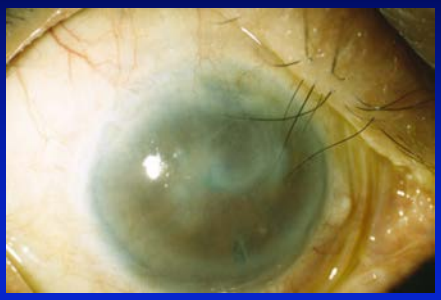
Trachoma



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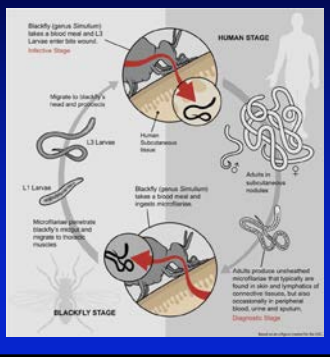
Onchocerciasis

"River Blindness"

Simulium damnosum



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Onchocerciasis

Onchocerca volvulus

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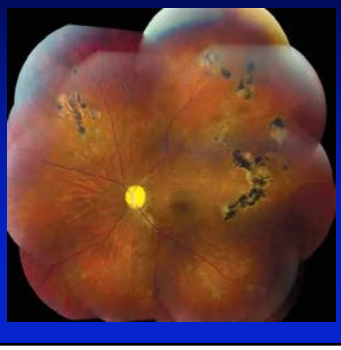
Onchocerciasis



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Onchocerciasis

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Onchocerciasis

- Ivermectin
  - » Dog heartworm treatment
  - » In 1970's Merck researchers discovered:
    - – kills the microfilaria of Onchocerca
    - – does not kill the adult worms
    - – "cure" requires 1 pill once or twice yearly for 12-15 years (life of adult worms)
    - – Merck Mectizan® Donation program
      - Distribution is the challenge

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Types of Mission Outreach

Direct provision of care

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Development & Education

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Collaboration & Support

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Medical Teams International

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Royal Nepal Airlines
9N-ABQ

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LIVING RIVER HEALTH SERVICES
जीवित नदी स्वास्थ्य सेवा
टिम चौरजहारी
रुकुम
अस्थाई क्रिनिक
उपचार नरीने दिनहरु - सोम वार, बुधवार, शुक्रवार।

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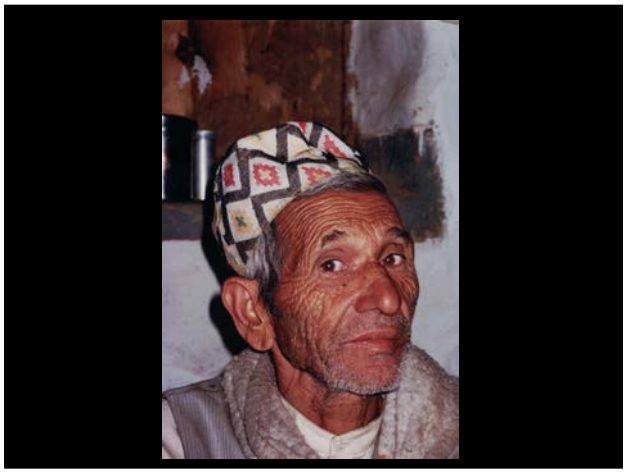

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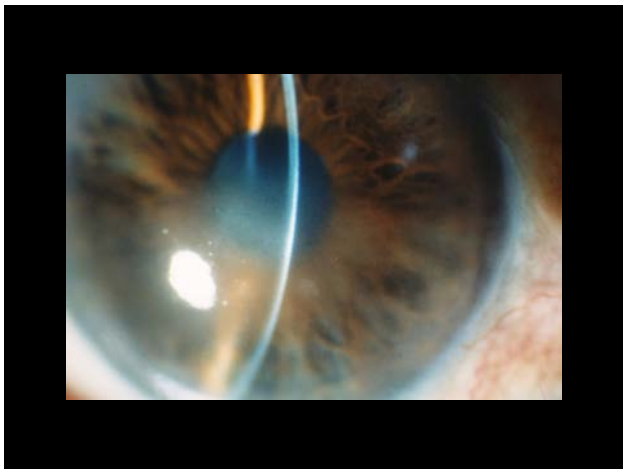

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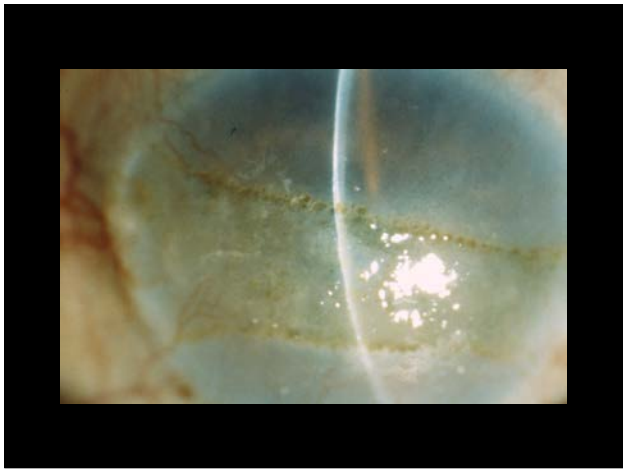

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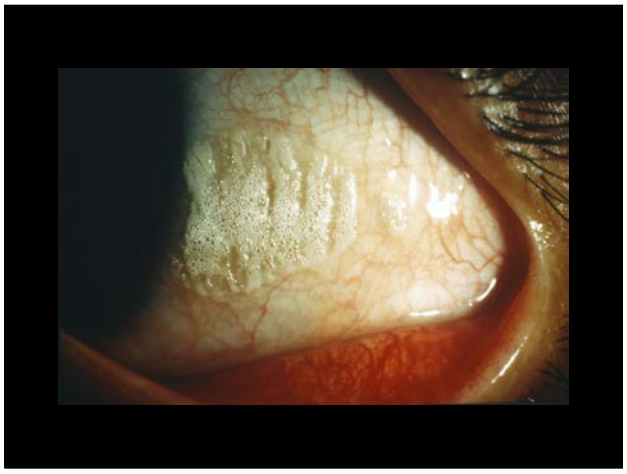

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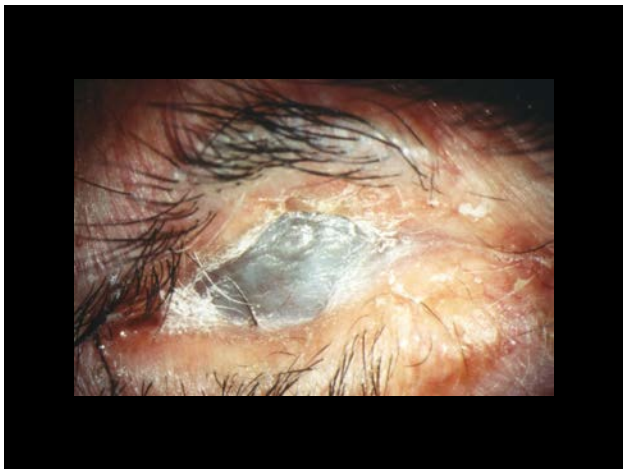

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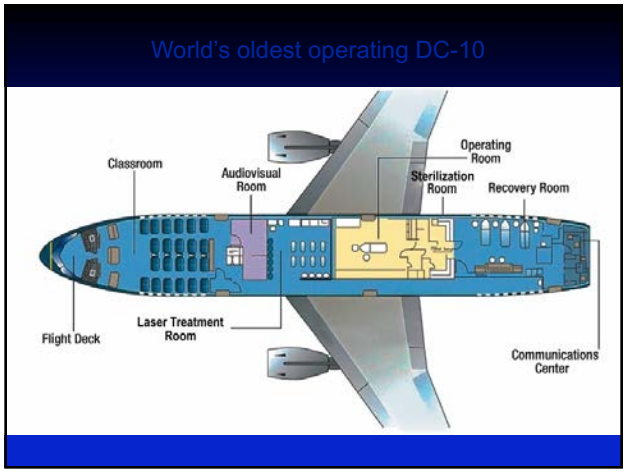
World's oldest operating DC-10
Classroom
Audiovisual Room
Operating Room
Sterilization Room
Recovery Room
Flight Deck
Laser Treatment Room
Communications Center

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Corneo-scleral Punch

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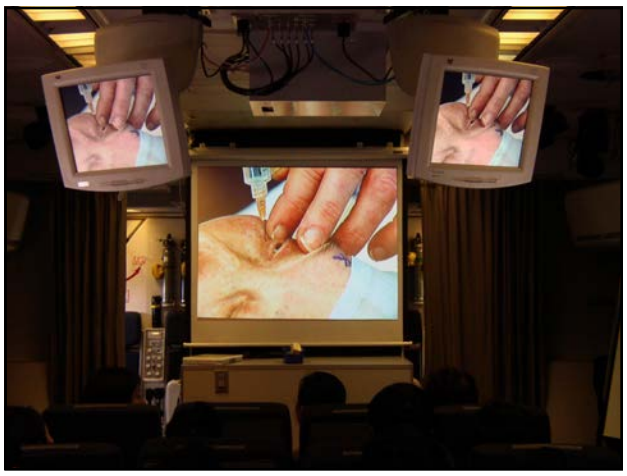

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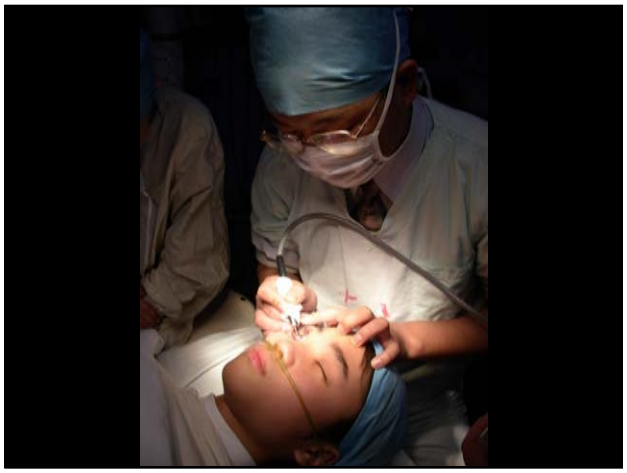

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Thank You!

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