

# Rise in eye injury cases

## Let experts handle crackers: Doctor

Come Deepavali and plenty of burns cases are reported every year. Dr Arun Samprathi, an ophthalmologist at the Narayana Nethralaya, spoke to **BVT** about cases pertaining to eye injuries.

**Has there been a reduction in the number of burns cases during this Deepavali as compared to last year?**

Despite repeated attempts by the media to make people more careful while bursting crackers, it's really sad that there hasn't been any reduction in the number of cases of burn injuries.

Last year, we had 40 cases of burns during Deepavali. This year, we already have 33 cases. More cases are expected in the next couple of days. Moreover, rural patients always come late. Considering all these factors, I think the number of burns cases this year will almost be the same as that of last year.

**Generally, what is the age group of those affected?**

Children are more susceptible to burns during Deepavali. Generally, those who suffer burns are in the age group of five to 15 years. But this time, we have six adult patients in the age group of 25 to 40 years. Also, many of those who were injured were not bursting crackers. They were just onlookers or passers-by.

**Do superficial burns have long-term effects?**

Burns should never be neglected. Superficial burns, especially in the cornea and on eyelids,

injuries. However, at times, these can lead to major problems. A minor corneal burn can lead to permanent reduction in vision.

**Could you tell us something about the people who have sustained serious eye injuries during this deepavali and are being treated at the Narayana Nethralaya?**

Till today, we have three patients with severe injuries. One of them is a five-year-old boy who has had to undergo a cataract surgery. The boy's cornea and lens were affected after a stone landed on his eye while he was watching others burst crackers.

A 40-year-old gentleman was injured by a rocket. He is suffering from cataract and glaucoma. Also, a 17-year-old girl, who was just watching crackers being burst in the neighbourhood, was hit in the eye by a foreign particle. She is suffering from retinal detachment and bleeding inside her eye. Both the gentleman and the girl are yet to undergo surgery.

**How would you like an ideal Deepavali to be?**

Bursting crackers should be limited to experts, like it is in the UK or the US.

In these countries, fireworks are handled by experts and the people assemble to watch and



Kashankar, a 10-year-old from Andhra Pradesh is undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital. Another patient, a 12-year-old from Chhatisgarh, got injured while bursting crackers and is admitted to Eye Hospital. **BVT**

In a small village in Andhra Pradesh, a person mistook that the cracker was not lit and took it in his hand. The cracker burst causing the bones of his left hand to rift open and three finger bones were injured. Burns injuries are always reported and there are many cases of the hand becoming disabled," said Dr Shanmuga, Prof of plastic surgery at Victoria Hospital.

### As reported

injuries to their eyes, a patient at the City Hospital sustained a serious injury to his eye. The doctor of the patient, will take care of the damaged. The patient has been admitted. On Thursday, a patient was injured while bursting crackers. However, all of them