

The McIndoe Burns Support Group, Queen Victoria Hospital, Holtze Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3DZ is collecting money to help Sundeep.

You can telephone helpline for credit and debit card donations on: 0870 0818000. Or send cheques to the above address.

Sundeep Kaur Hunjan, a 23 year-old young lady from Nairobi was driving home from work with her father in February when they were attacked.

She suffered extensive scarring on her face and neck - her eyelids were so damaged she cannot close her eyes.

Her sight was saved because she has Bell's phenomenon, a tendency to roll the eyeball upwards as she tries to close her eyelids, which has helped protect her eyes by keeping them moist.

Without this, her corneas would have dried out and become ulcerated, which would have led to her losing her sight.



'Just the start'

Sundeep has required eyelid reconstructive surgery with skin grafts to replace her upper and lower eyelids, as well as skin grafts to treat the heavy scarring on her neck.

She will need many more operations and treatments phased over the next 18-24 months to gain some reasonable recovery from this horrific trauma.

At the time of the attack, she was looking forward to her wedding, planned for April this year. However, she is now looking forward to her treatment.

Her uncle, Jit Singh Panesar, who lives in the UK and who brought her from Kenya for treatment, told the BBC News website: "She was so much looking forward to life, and the whole thing was turned upside down in minutes.

"The attack was completely unforeseen and unprovoked."

He said her fiancé was keeping in close touch with Sundeep from his home in Kenya.

"He has been very supportive, and is standing by her."

Sundeep's case was brought to the attention of Mr Raman Malhotra, a consultant ophthalmic and oculoplastic surgeon at the McIndoe Centre, who also works at the Queen Victoria NHS Foundation Trust.

He said: "I was shocked when I saw the pictures of her. She was so beautiful, and had been so severely injured.

"The first thing we needed to do was help her close her eyes. But this was just the start of the series of operations she will need."

Sundeep wanted to know if she would look like she did before the attack.

Mr Malhotra said: "We have made it clear. She will never be the same, but she can definitely look better."

Sundeep's uncle said her first operation had gone well and she was resting in hospital.

The medical team of Mr Raman Malhotra, Mr Baljit Singh Dheansa, Dr Yee Man Lam and Mr Sheraz Daya and the support staff have waived their fees in respect of their time and expertise in treating Sundeep.

However, the total cost of her treatment is likely to be around £100,000 over the 18-24 months. Her family needs to raise around £50,000 with the help of the community.

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