



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 3 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is a registered charity in England and Wales (299872) and in Scotland (SC045652)

Cataract Surgery (iii)

Level 3

Learning Outcome

Descriptors

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

Independently assess and manage moderate complexity patients, demonstrating an understanding of cataract procedures and selecting the most appropriate treatment according to current accepted practice.

- Understand and apply knowledge of medicine and surgery relevant to cataract and refractive practice, to make diagnoses and recommend a management plan.
- Be informed by the patient's unique medical, psychological and social circumstances.
- Understand the tests and imaging techniques that might be helpful in deciding about and guiding treatment.
- Use with accuracy and efficiency instruments available to assess the patient, including biometry (both contact and non-contact) and keratometry.
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- Implement a detailed management plan to include care from triage to discharge from care.
- Acknowledge and follow relevant guidelines or protocols, including application of appropriate formulae for lens calculation.
- Practise in line with the latest evidence.
- Understand the indications, risks and limitations of surgery and laser treatment and identify patients for whom these treatments would be appropriate.
- Involve the patient, and where appropriate, their carer, partner or relatives, in the choices about their care and enable them to express their informed consent, including about refractive outcome.
- Share decision-making by providing patients with appropriate and comprehensible information, prioritising the patient's wishes and respecting the patient's beliefs, concerns and expectations.
- Communicate the uncertainty of options in a manner that patients will understand.
- Manage difficult or challenging conversations.
- Develop situational awareness and an understanding of the impact of cultural and social issues.
- Enable patient self-management where possible.
- Understand and apply knowledge of clinical genetics relevant to cataract and refractive conditions.

- Advise patients about patterns of inheritance and recognise when it is appropriate to refer a patient for genetic counselling.
- Recognise when it is important to offer a consultation with family members.
- Recognise when a patient has had or is developing a complication or side effect from treatment and be able to manage this in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Maintain an understanding of new developments in relevant technologies.

Risk assess and prioritise patients appropriately, recognising the need for special interest input.

- Manage patient referrals efficiently, according appropriate priority to referrals based on clinical need and in accordance with local and national guidelines.
- Refer to more experienced clinicians when appropriate.
- Manage acute presentations following local guidance.
- Know the conditions and situations that warrant an urgent onward referral to other healthcare professionals, and be aware of the local policies and systems for making such referrals.
- Make appropriate and reliable arrangements for results to be acted upon in a timely fashion.
- Manage surgical waiting lists and other access to clinical services appropriately, intervening when clinical care for a patient is put at risk by inappropriate waiting list management.

Independently perform low risk phacoemulsification cataract procedures.

- Achieve safe and appropriate local anaesthetic for ophthalmic procedures.
- Perform low risk phacoemulsification cataract procedures.
- Use knowledge of phacodynamics to employ a suitable surgical technique.
- Perform an indicative minimum number of 100 complete cataract procedures during training.
- Apply appropriate laser for the management of problems with the lens capsule after cataract surgery.
- Perform aqueous and vitreous sampling in the management of endophthalmitis, and understand the risks of the procedure.
- Constitute and administer intra-vitreous antibiotics.
- Know how to handle any samples taken from the eye to increase the diagnostic yield and liaise with laboratory staff so that the specimens are correctly identified, presented and transported.
- Develop new skills in a supervised simulated environment.