The ROYAL COLLEGE of OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 3 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

Vitreoretinal Surgery (vii)

Level 3	
Learning Outcome	**Descriptors**
An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:	
Independently assess and manage moderate complexity patients, demonstrating an understanding of vitreoretinal procedures selecting the most appropriate treatment according to current accepted practice.	▪ Understand and apply knowledge of medicine and surgery relevant to vitreoretinal 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 ultrasound. ▪ Implement a detailed management plan to include care from triage to discharge from care. ▪ Acknowledge and follow relevant guidelines or protocols. ▪ Practise in line with the latest evidence. ▪ Understand the indications, risks and limitations of laser treatment and surgery 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. ▪ 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 vitreoretinal 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. ▪ Understand the importance of 'do no harm' in cases where intervention is unlikely to be of benefit and communicate with the patients and relatives accordingly.
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 that warrant an urgent onward referral to other healthcare professionals, and be aware of the local policies and systems for making such referrals. ▪ 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. ▪ Work effectively within a multidisciplinary team: - Understand the role played within the genetic team - Recognise the roles of clinical geneticists and genetic counsellors in the management of patients with genetic eye disease
Independently perform low complexity vitreoretinal procedures.	▪ Apply appropriate laser for the management of retinal disorders. ▪ Have a good knowledge of the types of laser, techniques of laser application, delivery systems and treatment strategies, including the indications, risks and limitations of laser treatment. This can be practised in a supervised simulated environment. ▪ Safely achieve appropriate local anaesthesia for vitreoretinal procedures. ▪ Perform surgical procedures using appropriate aseptic technique. ▪ Perform aqueous and vitreous sampling, and understand the risks of the procedure. This can be practised in a supervised simulated environment. ▪ Demonstrate competency in performing vitreous biopsy and give intravitreal antibiotics. ▪ Perform ultrasound examination to exclude a retinal detachment and a space-occupying lesion in presence of vitreous haemorrhage/obscured fundus view. ▪ Perform ultrasound scans in complex patients differentiating between structures, identifying tissue mobility and taking measurements.

	▪ Understand the risk associated with benign vs malignant intraocular lesions and understand the referral criteria. ▪ 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. ▪ Make appropriate and reliable arrangements for the result to be acted upon in a timely fashion. ▪ Develop new skills in a supervised simulated environment.