



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 3 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

DRAFT

Cornea and Ocular Surface Disease (ii)

Level 3

Learning Outcome

Descriptors

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

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

- Understand and apply knowledge of medicine and surgery relevant to cornea and ocular surface disease 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 (e.g. corneal topography, specular microscopy and Anterior Segment OCT).

- Implement a detailed management plan to include care from triage to discharge.
- 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 of the cornea.
- 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 corneal and ocular surface 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 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.

Independently perform low complexity corneal and ocular surface disease procedures.

- Recognise and manage corneal perforation/corneal melt, including primary repair of corneal trauma.
- Perform aqueous and vitreous sampling, and understand the risks of the procedure.
- Safely achieve appropriate local anaesthesia.
- Perform surgical procedures using appropriate aseptic technique.
- 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.