



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

# Level 3 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

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## Vitreoretinal Surgery (vii)

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### 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.

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