



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

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Vitreoretinal Surgery (vii)

Level 4

Learning Outcome

Descriptors

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

Demonstrate advanced clinical management and surgical skills.

- Demonstrate competency in diagnosis, investigation and management of vitreoretinal disease in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.
- Have skills in cataract surgery to Level 4.
- Have advanced cataract surgery skills to manage high risk cataract surgery including, but not limited to post-vitrectomy, posterior polar cataract and zonular weakness.
- Demonstrate core skills to manage:
 - Endophthalmitis
 - vitreous haemorrhage
 - supra-choroidal haemorrhage
 - sub-retinal haemorrhage
 - uncomplicated rhegmatogenous retinal detachment
 - vitreo-macular traction
 - epiretinal membrane
 - macular hole
- Employ the most appropriate technique from a range of surgical skills for the particular clinical situation e.g. vitrectomy, external buckling, pneumoretinopexy.
- Demonstrate skills to manage the posterior segment complications of cataract surgery, including intra-ocular lens implantation in the absence of capsular support.
- Demonstrate laser skills such as the application of indirect laser with indentation and in the presence of a small pupil for retinal breaks.
- Undertake prospective audit of specialist surgical outcomes in vitreoretinal disease, against national standards.
- Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.

Manage the complexity and uncertainty of vitreoretinal disease cases.

- Understand and apply advanced knowledge of vitreoretinal conditions and practice.
- Independently manage vitreoretinal disease clinics and theatre lists and recognise the need for further input when appropriate.
- Diagnose and manage vitreoretinal conditions including, but not limited to, proliferative diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachment with proliferative vitreoretinopathy, exudative retinal detachment, inherited and inflammatory conditions.'
- Apply knowledge and skills in a flexible manner.
- Utilise existing skills to novel situations.
- Adapt management strategies to take account of patient's informed preferences, particular circumstances, age and co-morbidities, respecting patient autonomy.
- Manage the uncertainty of treatment success or failure and communicate effectively with patients where there is uncertainty.
- Manage the personal challenge of coping with uncertainty.
- Evaluate published developments in vitreoretinal knowledge and practice and modify own practice appropriately.
- Recognise and refer patients who will benefit from more specialist input.

Apply management and team working skills appropriately, including in complex, dynamic situations.

- Use highly developed consultation skills efficiently to manage busy clinics whilst managing patient expectations.
- Assist with decision-making where there are cognitive impairment barriers, employing Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) services or equivalent if necessary.
- Understand how culture or religious beliefs can affect patients' decision making and needs, and communicate these effectively to the team.
- Be sensitive to social situations and the impact these may be having on the patient, their carers and their disease.
- Understand when information must be shared more widely with schools, carers, police, etc. and understand the responsibilities and implications of sharing information.
- Receive and respond to communications in complex or challenging situations.
- Give specialist advice to non-vitreoretinal specialists.
- Liaise and mutually support colleagues from other subspecialties, particularly medical retina, to optimise patient care, when co-management is required.
- Promote professional values within the team.
- Work as a collaborative member of a team, respecting differences of opinion.

- Accept constructive and appropriately framed criticism.
- Support colleagues.
- Be an advocate for patients.
- Manage significant events and complaints, including writing formal reports.
- Understand and follow local policies in response to complaints.

Be an effective supervisor, teacher and trainer of vitreoretinal disease.

- Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in vitreoetinal surgery.
- Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in vitreoretinal disease. This includes supervising simple vitreoretinal procedures and surgery to Level 3, such as vitreous biopsy.
- Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 4 in cataract surgery.

The indicative time for training at this level is **18 months** of full time equivalent.

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