

## Abstracts

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### Perimetry – ‘It’s a Dog’s Life’: A Patient’s Perspective

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Patients are eternally frustrated when the word ‘visual field’ is uttered. Often, they fall asleep, perform the test incorrectly, describe it as ‘difficult’ and/or try to outsmart Swedish Interactive Thresholding Algorithm (SITA) Fast. The appreciation of the patients’ perspective and experience are key to acquiring good quality performance. More importantly, in advanced glaucoma, the importance of 10–2 both for perimetric interpretation and psychological feedback can help with management. Often, patients feel lost, frustrated and confused even after the learning curve. The authors would like to present the other challenging dimension after medical compliance *ie* reliable perimetry and the patients’ perspective.

### Perimetry – A Technician’s Life

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Functional perimetry remains at the core of glaucoma management. Reliability indices, intra- and inter-test variables are, however, factors that alter the interpretation of this psychosomatic test. Fundamentally important is a reliable test; this is achieved by firstly, the patients’ appreciation of the test *via* pretest counselling, secondly, patients’ comfort and appropriate ambient environs and thirdly, vigilance from the conductor in minimizing sources of error. We hope to highlight techniques to improve both patients’ performance and ophthalmic interpretation of perimetry.

### Tonometry for Ophthalmic Assistants

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Tonometry is a key component of the ophthalmic examination and essential to the diagnosis and management of glaucoma patients. This presentation discusses the principles of tonometry, Goldmann applanation tonometry, other methods of contact and non-contact tonometry, and factors influencing intraocular pressure.

### Assisting in Surgery

*S Burnett (ORBIS)*  
*Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Florida, USA*

The surgical assistant is a dynamic and integral member of the operating room team. Knowledge of sterile technique, hand scrubbing, gown and gloving are critical to the performance of a successful operation. The proper care and handling of delicate eye instruments ensures patient safety and prevents instrument damage. This lecture will provide an overview of surgical technology skills.

### Oculoplastics

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*Chairman and Professor of Ophthalmology*  
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Lacrimal problems are very common in older patients, who may present with dry eyes due to decreased tear secretion, or watery eyes due to blocked tear ducts or eyelid problems. This presentation will help the ophthalmic assistant

to make the diagnosis, and be aware of what can be done for these patients.

### **Instrument Maintenance**

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**Objective:** To appreciate the role of ophthalmic equipment maintenance in promoting safety and efficacy and reducing cost of patient care.

#### **Outline:**

- Office equipment
- Operating instruments
- Handling, handling and inspection
- Cleaning – manual and instrument cleaning
- Lubrication
- Sterilization, labelling and storage
- Transport
- Care of specific instruments *eg* hinged instruments, scissors, hollow instruments

### **Ocular Motility**

*S Burnett (ORBIS)*  
*Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Florida, USA*

Ocular motility disorders can be congenital or acquired later in life. They produce complex forms of strabismus that require surgical management to restore ocular alignment, treat diplopia, and/or restore normal eyelid position. This lecture will review the care and management of several types of squint, myasthenia gravis and Graves' disease.

### **Ocular Trauma**

*S Burnett (ORBIS)*  
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Each year, over two million eye injuries occur in the United States of America, with nearly 35% of those injuries among persons aged 17 years or younger. Eye injuries are a leading cause of monocular visual disability and blindness in children. This lecture will review common injuries and the emergent treatment needed to help reduce permanent eye damage.

### **Refractometry: Assessment of the Refractive State of the Eye**

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**Objectives:** To understand the principles of optics in relation to errors of refraction and to determine refractive errors and their correction.

#### **Outline**

- Refraction of light. Vergence
- Optics of the eye
- Lens: power, types
- Refractive errors: types and optics of
- Pinhole, stenopeic slit
- Streak retinoscopy
- Subjective refraction
- Jackson cross cylinder
- Power cross
- Writing prescriptions and transpositions