

Cataract and Uveitis

Chairperson: R Sharma

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Cataract Misadventures: Video Presentation with Panel Discussion on Complications in the Operating Room

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Overview of Cataract in Suriname

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Purpose: To provide an overview of cataract data in Suriname and to describe and evaluate a successful programme to control cataract blindness in a developing country.

Design: Evaluation of hospital data and findings from a population-based cross-sectional survey.

Methods: The implementation of a new cataract surgical intervention programme was described and evaluated by analysing the cataract surgery rate (CSR) and other related indicators at the Suriname Eye Centre (SEC) during the period 2006–2014. Findings of the recent Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) survey (n = 2998), including the prevalence of blindness due to cataract, cataract surgical coverage, surgical outcome and demo-

graphic trends in individuals aged > 50 years were used to evaluate the cataract situation in Suriname.

Results: Since the implementation of a new cataract intervention programme, the CSR at the SEC has increased from 2246 per one million inhabitants in 2006 (population size 512 000) to 7920 per one million inhabitants in 2014 (population size 573 000), *ie* by a factor of 3.5. The proportion of eyes with a postoperative visual acuity < 6/60 (poor outcome) with available correction was lowest in eyes operated at the SEC (8.5%) and highest in surgeries performed by foreign humanitarian ophthalmic missions.

Conclusions: The cataract situation in Suriname is well under control since the implementation of the new cataract intervention programme, with relatively good surgical outcome. Important factors contributing to this success were the introduction of phacoemulsification with modern surgical equipment, intensive training courses for both medical and paramedical staff and improvement in the affordability and accessibility of cataract surgery.

The Great Debate – Femtosecond Cataract Surgery: Does It Make Sense for the Caribbean?

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