Recruitment halted on ESCRs study on antibiotic prophylaxis of endophthalmitis following clear beneficial result

The ESCRs has terminated recruitment for their two year study of antibiotic prophylaxis of endophthalmitis following cataract surgery. Quarterly analysis of the figures to date by the study’s statisticians at the University of Strathclyde clearly indicates a beneficial treatment effect. In January 2006 the Data Monitoring Committee recommended that the study be unmasked and found the result to be so clear that they recommended to the Study Chairman that recruitment be halted.

The study has found that the risk of contracting endophthalmitis following phacoemulsification cataract surgery is significantly reduced by an intracameral injection of cefuroxime at the end of surgery.

The escs Study, a partially masked, randomized, placebo controlled, multi-national study conducted at 24 ophthalmology centres across Europe commenced recruitment in September 2003, a preliminary report on the primary results will be published in the march 2006 issue of the Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Complete follow-up data and analyses will be reported at the XXXIX Congress of the ESCRs in London in September 2006 and will subsequently be published in the Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

For further information contact Caroline Fitzpatrick European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, tel: +33 1 209 1100, caroline.fitzpatrick@escrs.org.

Prevention of Blindness Fellowship Programme

Application are invited for BCPB Fellowships to start in 2007. The aims of the Fellowships are to fund research and training in prevention of blindness for high calibre clinicians and scientists from the UK and overseas. Projects must further the goals of VISION 2020: THE RIGHT TO SIGHT, the elimination of avoidable blindness. In 2007, BCPB seeks to fund one Fellow from within the UK and one Fellow from a low-income country to undertake projects that focus on Africa. Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Demonstrate that their project is innovative and increases knowledge of the causes of blindness and/or its prevention in line with the priorities of VISION 2020
- Demonstrate the ability and ambition to pass on their skills in blindness prevention

The fellowships will be worth up to £60,000pa for 2 or 3 years. Applications must be submitted jointly by the Fellowship candidate and the supervisor at the host institution in the UK.

For full information and an application form, see www.bcpb.org or contact Jackie Webber at BCPB, 59-60 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HP or by email: info@bcpb.org. Closing date for applications is 30 September 2006.

NOTICES

Back of the eye

The latest issue of Community Eye Health (No 58) discusses linking people with eye care in outreach clinics. For further information please contact: Journal of Community Eye Health, International Resource Centre, International Centre for Eye Health, Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK; tel: +44 (0)20 7612 7964; email: Anita.Shah@lshtm.ac.uk; online edition: www.jceh.co.uk. Annual subscription (4 issues) UK £28/US$45. Free to developing country applicants

Macula of Paris

This meeting will take place on 6th September 2006 at the InterContinental Paris Le Grand Hôtel, 2 Rue Scribe, 75009 Paris, France. For further information, please contact Gisle Soubrier, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, University Créteil-Paris XII, Avenue de Verdun, 40, 94010 Creteil, France. Or email Anne-Sophie Caron at: as.caron@colloquium.fr

Managing human resources

The latest issue of Community Eye Health (No 56) assess the use of human resources in the delivery of eye care. For further information please contact: Journal of Community Eye Health, International Resource Centre, International Centre for Eye Health, Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK; tel: +44 (0)20 7612 7964; email: Anita.Shah@lshtm.ac.uk; online edition: www.jceh.co.uk. Annual subscription (4 issues) UK £28/US$45. Free to developing country applicants.

8th EUNOS Meeting – 2007

The 2007 European Neuro-ophthalmology Society meeting (EUNOS, www.eunos.org) will be taking place in Istanbul, Turkey on 26-29th May 2007. For further information please contact www.eunos2007.org or contact Pinar Aydin aydinp@eunos2007.org

Teaching courses on Retinal and Vitreous Surgery

Several teaching courses on Retinal and Vitreous Surgery have been organised throughout 2006 and 2007 around the world in association with the International Faculty. For further information on each of these courses please contact Ingrid Kressig, Univ.-Augenklinik Theodor-Kutzer-Ufer 1-3, 68164 Mannheim, Germany; email: Ingrid.kressig@augen.ma.uni-heidelberg.de; website: http://kressig.uni-hd.de/.

EVER 2006

The EVER 2006 meeting will take place in Vilamoura, Portugal on 4-7th October 2006. For further information please contact the EVER Office, Kapucijnenvoer 33, 3000 Leuven, Belgium; website www.ever.be

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Immediately accessible from the main menu. The “Learning Pad” is again presented here and sections of videos or illustrations can be cut and pasted into your own presentations. This is aimed at being a teaching aid rather than a copyright infringement tool!

There are a total of 25 videos, with a total viewing time of 1 hour and 41 minutes. There are three main chapters: (1) introduction, (2) basic techniques, and (3) common indications. The first chapter is a brief introduction to basic surgical anatomical considerations and preoperative evaluation. “Basic techniques” consists of 2 subsections. The first covers principles of scleral buckling: indications, order of events, slinging muscles and marking breaks, indications for drainage, gas injection, cryotherapy, scleral buckling, and encirclement. The second covers basic vitrectomy techniques: vitreotomy, peeling the posterior hyaloid, fluid-gas exchange, and using silicone oil. These sections are presented with clear and concise videos and three dimensional illustrations which are easy to follow and cover the core of vitreoretinal surgical principles well. They set the scene for the last chapter: common indications. This chapter covers 10 common current vitreoretinal indications for surgery and builds on the principles set out in the previous chapters. Scenes covered here are: vitrectomy for retinal detachment, diabetic retinopathy, epiretinal membranes, macular holes, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, retained lens matter, posterior segment trauma, intraocular foreign bodies, giant retinal tears, and removal of silicone oil. This covers most of the scenarios a junior vitreoretinal fellow is likely to encounter. Interestingly, no mention of 25 gauge or 23 gauge vitrectomy was made, but this may well make an appearance in the second DVD.

This DVD would make a valuable contribution to any vitreoretinal surgical rotation. Videos of vitreoretinal surgery are understandably difficult to produce, but this DVD admirably captured high quality video in most instances. The narration also complemented this well, being invariably clear and concise. On some occasions, I thought that a little more video footage would have been desirable, but this is a minor criticism given the outstanding nature and quality of the three dimensional illustrations, and the product overall.

This section of the Video Atlas of Eye Surgery lives up to the quality of the first. The authors are respected surgeons in their field, with a wealth of experience. This certainly shows through in the depth and quality of this work and the authors are to be congratulated. It covers all of the basic principles and techniques necessary for the novice surgeon in the field of vitreoretinal surgery and importantly, leaves you wanting more. I look forward to seeing the second “Challenging cases” DVD in the vitreoretinal series of this atlas. The first is certainly a winner.

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