

Progression of Training and Skills Ophthalmology

Preamble

Sight is arguably the most important of the special senses and its impairment adds to the challenges of aging and retaining independence. Ocular dysfunction presents unique challenges to patients who can rightfully expect the family physician to be knowledgeable, capable of caring for those problems that can be simply managed in the office setting, and of recognizing and appropriately triaging ocular emergencies such as glaucoma and corneal ulceration or threatened ulceration. Finally, assisting with social intervention and securing necessary support when visual impairment creates hazard or threatens independence is central to the physician's responsibility to the family and community.

Goals

- Acknowledgment of the impact of diseases of the eye on the patient and family in all stages of the life cycle
- Awareness of the importance of diagnosing and treating disease of the eye in family medicine practice
- A firm grasp of the basic principles, recognition and treatment of common disorders, initial management of ocular emergencies, and indications for specialist referral
- Triage skills in ocular emergencies

Objectives

- Ability to perform physical examination in patients of all ages, with emphasis on understanding normal neurologic and motor responses as well as appearance of the eye
- Ability to generate a differential diagnosis and formulate a rational plan for investigation and management, including assessment of severity and the need for immediate expert assistance in ocular emergencies or potential emergencies
- Skill in performance of basic techniques used in eye examination including fluorescein staining, slit lamp examination, tonometry and superficial foreign body removal
- Knowledge of current surveillance practices relating to ocular health in certain systemic diseases such as diabetes
- Manage and coordinate psychosocial and family issues, including long-term care of debilitating ocular conditions, necessary environmental adaptation and use of community resources
- Knowledge of systemic effects of commonly used ocular medications
- Ability to communicate in compassionate, knowledgeable manner and address complex psychosocial ophthalmology issues with patients and families

The goals and objectives are achieved through a combination of structured outpatient and longitudinal experience, including experience in the Emergency Room and the continuity clinic, together with didactic instruction.

[Revised and approved at the Faculty Meeting April 3, 2012]

[Revised and approved at the Faculty Retreat June 20, 2014]