

European Society of Ophthalmology



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Project Abstract

Title of Project: Laser Workshop for Beginning Ophthalmologists

Purpose: To improve residents' and practicing ophthalmologists' understanding of lasers and their use in ophthalmology, and to create training models that enable gaining and refining practical clinical skills of common laser procedures.

Methods: A one-day workshop course has been developed. It includes 4 theoretical instruction sessions and 2 training models. The theoretical part of the workshop consists of 4 presentations on the following subjects: laser physics, types of lasers and their ophthalmic uses, retinal breaks and their management, posterior capsular opacification and its management. The training models have been invented for this workshop, and designed to be simple, reusable, cheap, and allow for a senior ophthalmologist to evaluate the performance of the trainee and provide practical feedback. They include a model for argon laser retinopexy around a horseshoe tear and a model for Nd:YAG posterior capsulotomy.

Results: The workshop was well received by several first-year residents who completed it as well as by several senior ophthalmologists in Israel. The model for posterior capsulotomy raised significant enthusiasm and is currently in the process of being patented by the Tel Aviv Medical Center. The workshop has been recognized as a valuable teaching modality that enables acquiring theoretical and practical laser skills with no risk of patient complications, and is planned to be incorporated into the training courses provided for residents in Israel. The models may be used repeatedly and separately, and allow practicing ophthalmologists to maintain and refine these skills.

Conclusion: The workshop is complete and the 2 models are a useful tool for gaining laser skills for the treatment of 2 of the most commonly encountered diagnoses in ophthalmology. After the patenting process has been completed, the contents of the workshop including photographs and the designs of the models will be published. They will also be presented at the SOE 2013 meeting in Copenhagen.