

European Society of Ophthalmology



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Project Abstract

Title of Project: Project Title: Improving wet- and drylab training for young ophthalmologists

Background:

In Denmark microsurgical training during ophthalmological residency has to some extent been neglected for many years. All new ocular surgeons have to overcome a lot of obstacles before they are able to start surgical training and the busy life in an ophthalmological department seldom leaves time and space for surgical training and supervision.

The Danish national board of health provides instructional courses on ophthalmic microsurgery as a part of the specialist training program in ophthalmology. For decades the participants in these courses have brought discarded surgical instruments from their departments. Participants were then left with suboptimal instruments and together with suboptimal wet-and drylab models; the training value of these courses was unnecessary low. Furthermore new hygiene standards have led to a situation where surgical instruments used in training involving animal material (in this case, pig's eye) can never be used again for surgery in humans.

The purpose of my project is to optimize the course and outcome of the existing training program.

It has been necessary to focus on several aspects.

- 1) Optimizing the quality of the pigs eyes used in the wet-lap.***
- 2) Providing a sufficient amount of microsurgical instruments in good quality.***
- 3) Collect used but fully functional phacomachines and a vitrectomimachine***
- 4) Optimize all wet- and drylap models to ensure that the participants in the courses were able to extract as many skills as possible.***

Results:

We have purchased new instruments from India and Pakistan and single use instruments from different international companies. We have now five Legacy phacomachines and an Accurus vitrectomimachine.

We have experienced a much higher educational value of the courses and much happier participants based on questionnaire.

We believe that optimizing these courses have removed some of the many obstacles on the road to ophthalmic microsurgery.

