European Society of Ophthalmology



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Project Abstract

Title of Project: Optimising virtual diagnostic hubs to manage patients with chronic eye conditions in the community

Purpose: This project aims to improve the capacity and flow of patients through these diagnostic hubs, whilst also seeking to make the process of reviewing diagnostic tests easier for clinicians. One area of work is the introduction of anterior segment smart phone photography to improve documentation of post-operative sites and the ocular surface in patients.

Methods:

Technicians in the diagnostic hub will be trained to use a smartphone adaptor, attached to a smartphone device to take anterior segment photos on patients attending the virtual glaucoma clinic. This study will assess the impact of anterior segment smartphone photography on visit times, staff training and clinician management decisions in diagnostic hubs. Data will be prospectively gathered as smartphone photography is introduced. Qualitative data will be gathered on technician and clinician perceptions of this new step in the virtual diagnostic pathway.

Results:

An initial proof of concept study suggests that smartphone photography adds only 23 seconds to existing test times, with clinical decision making changing based on post trabeculectomy bleb appearance, lens opacity or peripheral iridotomy patency. Further data will be gathered when smartphone photography is introduced to the hub on a larger scale.

Conclusion:

Smartphone photography in virtual clinics allows more information to be available to clinicians, who can make decisions on cataract, post-operative glaucoma appearance and other anterior segment findings with more confidence.