

European Society of Ophthalmology



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Project Abstract

National Strategy to Reduce the Use of Topical Antibiotics in Cataract Surgery Prophylaxis in the Czech Republic

Purpose: The aim of this project is to drive a nationwide change in ophthalmic practice by reducing the unnecessary use of topical antibiotic drops in uncomplicated cataract surgery. The project seeks to align the Czech Republic with international evidence-based standards, thereby decreasing antibiotic resistance and healthcare costs.

Methods: The implementation strategy includes the preparation of a joint position paper for a leading Czech ophthalmology journal, co-authored with the presidents of the Czech Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ČSRKCH), the Czech Vitreoretinal Society (ČVRS), and the Department of Infectious Diseases of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and Na Bulovce Hospital. Cooperation has been established with the largest private cataract surgery provider in the country in order to introduce the new standard in practice. Advocacy and structured dialogue with professional societies will support updates to national guidelines. In addition, targeted educational and awareness activities are planned to inform ophthalmologists and residents about the evidence base and promote best practice.

Results: The expected outcomes include publication of the joint expert article, endorsement of the approach by national professional societies and academic centers, and progressive reduction in prescriptions of topical antibiotic drops after cataract surgery. This change should lead to a measurable decline in antibiotic consumption, with an estimated reduction of up to 160,000 bottles annually in the Czech Republic.

Conclusion: The project aims to establish intracameral antibiotics as the sole standard of prophylaxis in uncomplicated cataract surgery in the Czech Republic. By engaging key opinion leaders, private and public providers, and national professional societies, this initiative will contribute to lowering antibiotic resistance, improving patient safety, and optimizing healthcare resources.