



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Shared-care between optometrists and ophthalmologists in post-operative cataract patients in Queen Mary Hospital

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Introduction

After establishing the high volume cataract surgery service since Nov 2009, the number of cataract surgery was increased from 1469 in 2009 to 3880 in 2013 in Hong Kong West Cluster. Ophthalmologists are overloaded by the increased number of post-operative follow-up visits generated. Here is a report on establishment of a new Cataract Optometry Service piloted in Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) with the collaboration between The School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and The Department of Ophthalmology, The University of Hong Kong.

Objectives

(1) To determine how optometrists can share the workload with ophthalmologists in this new Cataract Optometry Service (2) To expand optometric service to cataract post-operative ocular health assessment

Methodology

Patients after cataract surgery in the Grantham Hospital were booked for the Cataract Optometry Service at their 3-month post-operative follow-up in QMH. Two types of appointments were available. 1) Ophthalmologists referred patients to a full Cataract Optometry Service (full service) after finishing the 1-month post-operative follow-up. This full service included refraction and anterior ocular health assessment. Posterior ocular health assessment was provided by indications. The optometrists managed patients based on the management plan made by ophthalmologists. 2) Patients were examined by the ophthalmologists at the 3-month follow-up. In this type of appointments, optometrists conducted refraction only. Outcomes of the full service are reported in this presentation.

Result

Over 4700 cataract operations were performed from Apr 2012 to Sep 2013 in the Grantham Hospital. The Cataract Optometry Service optometrists examined 4048 cases from Jul 2012 to Dec 2013 and 1889 cases (46.7%) were full service, in which 1576 cases (83.4%) were completed by the optometrists independently. This new

3-month post-operative Cataract Optometry Service has expanded the service of optometrists in ocular health assessment. The service helped to share the burden of ophthalmologists and spared their time to handle more serious cases. This service enhanced the effectiveness of manpower arrangement in cataract post-operative care.