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Guiding Patients through Modern Cataract Surgery Options: Femtosecond laser and Advanced Technology IOLS

Statement of problem: As the average age of our global population increases, eye care providers are caring for patients representing a demographic that is more educated, financially secure, with increased life expectancy and longer working careers. These patients have a greater demand for high quality vision including relatively new requirements for near vision, with computers, tablets and smartphones dominating the workplace. Combining these high visual demands with the unwillingness to compromise, modern cataract surgery patients require eye care providers to help them navigate their options and choose the best solution for their active lifestyle.

Methodology and theoretical orientation: Patients undergoing cataract surgery are faced with multiple options when scheduling their procedure. They must decide on whether to have a femtosecond laser assisted procedure or traditional phacoemulsification. In addition, a patient must make a lifestyle decision regarding the type of IOL to choose at the time of their surgery.

Conclusions and significance: Eye care providers have the opportunity and responsibility to guide patients through all of their options when preparing for cataract surgery. A complete evaluation of risks, benefits and alternatives must be conducted as part of their pre-operative consultation, and decisions should be made on an individual basis. After the decision on whether to choose femtosecond laser assisted cataract surgery, IOL choices should be decided based on visual preferences and lifestyle considerations. Eye care providers will therefore educate patients on advantages and limitations of IOL options and assist in ultimately recommending the best IOL choice for the procedure.

Biography

Robert S. Stutman, OD, MBA, FAAO graduated from SUNY College of Optometry and completed a residency at the VA Medical Center in Baltimore and his MBA at Loyola College of Maryland. He currently serves as the Director of Optometric Comanagement at Select Eye Care in the Baltimore/Washington DC metro area.

Stutman has contributed publications to peer-reviewed optometric journals and textbooks and has lectured to doctors of optometry nationally. He is the recipient of the Maryland Optometric Association's Young Optometrist of the Year and Optometrist of the Year. He has served on the QEI Committee of the Maryland State Board of Examiners, and has also served as a past Legislative Chair as well as a Past-President of the Maryland Optometric Association.

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