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The case for and against the defensive optometrist

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The practitioner undertakes a duty of care, operating within a legal framework designed to afford investigative freedom to differential diagnosis within an ever-increasing litigious mise-en-scene. The characteristics which define this duty and breach of, strongly include the developing concept of consent but reach beyond civil responsibility and into the criminal sphere (with the advent of the first gross negligence manslaughter verdict in the UK). A practitioner's judgment in this field is almost always incomplete until a series of tests have been completed. With this in mind, the role can provide a challenge in reaching a conclusion without negligently abusing the patient or the duty thereby. This article will seek to provide a practical approach in fulfilling the duty of care with care.

Biography

Faraz Farooq Saleem has completed his BSc in Optometry from Glasgow Caledonian University in 2004. He obtained his Post-graduate Legal Diploma from BPP Law School, London in 2007 and Post-graduate Diploma in Legal Practice for Solicitors from University of Hertfordshire in 2011. While studying Law, he concurrently built experience as a Refractive Laser and IOL Optometrist for Optical Express, and has served as a Senior Lead Optometrist Manager for Ultralase and Optimax. He is currently a Lead Optometrist at Specsavers, Oxford as well as the Local Ophthalmic Committee's GRRS Clinical Governance Lead (Glaucoma Referrals Scheme).

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