

REASON WHY?

Eye emergencies are common in the emergency department (ED)(1). However, it has been established that ED doctors lack confidence when assessing ophthalmic patients (2), with emergency nurse practitioners (ENPs) demonstrating a higher quality of assessment (3).



Improve the confidence of ED doctors and AHPs (including ACPs, ENPs) in the assessment of patients presenting with eye conditions, their management within the department and the quality of referrals made the urgent eye clinic (UEC).

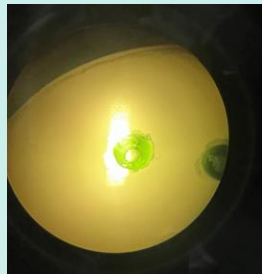
PLAN

- Assess the scope of the issue regarding confidence of members of the ED MDT seeing eye emergencies.
- Develop and deliver an emergency ophthalmology focused course.
- Evaluate the impact of this session for attendees and the impact of referrals made to UEC.

DO

A half-day teaching session was delivered and led by an ophthalmic specialist trainee and included:

- Presentation on common eye emergencies, including examination, differentials and management.
- Slit lamp examination
- Simulation of foreign body removal – shown below.



STUDY

Attendee feedback:

- Course was attended by 10 members of the ED team (Figure 1).
- 80% of those who attended reported less than two hours of slit lamp use.
- 90% had referred to ophthalmology more than five times.
- Overall confidence rating went from 1.7 to 4.8, with improvement in each domain (Figure 2).

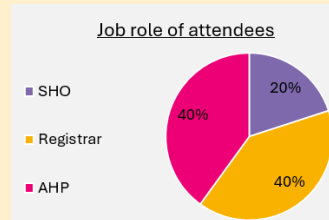


Figure 1: job role of attendees. AHPs included emergency nurse practitioners (ENPs) and advanced care practitioners (ACPs).

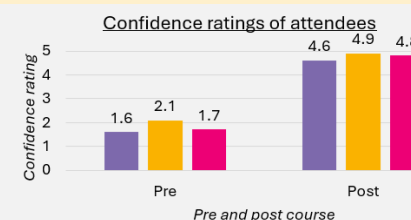


Figure 2: results of self-assessment grading (Likert Scale) by attendees' pre and post course.

Impact on assessment, management and referrals:

- Improvement in documentation of examination findings – 33% to 60%
- More patients started on appropriate treatment when indicated.
- Improvement of differential diagnosis given with reasons for referral (Figure 3).

Figure 3: ED Assessment pre- and post-course.

| | Pre-course (n=12) | Post-course (n=15) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Examination | 33% | 60% |
| Differential | 50% | 80% |
| Accuracy of diagnosis | 66% | 66% |
| Treatment started | 60% | 100% |

ACT

The pre-course questionnaire demonstrates a lack of confidence in assessing eye patients, with an overall confidence rating of 1.7 and only 33% of patients referred having documented findings.

The course was successful in its primary aim of improving the confidence of attendees in assessing eye patients with an improvement in the self-assessment score to 4.8, with more patients receiving appropriate initial treatment and higher quality referrals made.