

New approaches to lenticular and corneal refractive surgery the focus of this year's Winter Refractive Surgery Meeting

This year's ESCRS Winter Refractive meeting has three main themes, corneal remodelling, Phakic IOLs and refractive intraocular surgery. The programme includes three symposia, eight free paper sessions, a refractive surgery didactic course, and surgical skills training courses and posters on a range of cataract and refractive topics in a new electronic format.

Lenticular approaches to refractive surgery will be brought into sharper focus at this year's meeting which will include instructional and surgical skills training courses, a five-hour main symposium and two free paper sessions devoted to the topic.

Phakic IOL's

The main symposium, "Understanding phakic IOL implantation" (Saturday, 8.00-13.05), will provide live surgery demonstrations of implantations of the various currently available IOLS (Sunday 8.00-10.30). The implanted lenses will include the Vivarte, the Artiflex, the ICARE, the ICL, the PRL and the Verisyse.

The session will include discussions on patient selection and preoperative assessment, and reports on the results achieved with the various lenses.

A free paper session on phakic IOLs will provide further details on results obtained with the lenses and descriptions of new techniques in preoperative assessment of patients and techniques for implantation of the IOLs and the management of complications.

Another Free paper session (Refractive Intraocular Surgery II, Sunday 8.00-10.30) will focus primarily on lenticular approach to refractive surgery, namely refractive lens exchange. Speakers at the session will report on results obtained with a variety of IOLS in the correction of high refractive errors, and with accommodative and multifocal lenses in presbyopic ametropes. The session will also include a report on results obtained with the light-adjustable IOL.

Corneal remodelling

Recent advances in corneal refractive surgery will also feature strongly at this year's meeting. In addition to Sunday's main symposium on the topic, there will be four separate free paper sessions on corneal remodelling for refractive surgery.

The first of the corneal remodelling sessions (Friday, 17.00-19.00) will include reports on the latest results achieved with new solid-state lasers and the findings obtained in the postoperative assessment of LASIK and surface ablations. The session will also include several reports on new techniques for performing lamellar keratoplasty.

The second of the sessions (Saturday, 14.30-15.30) will also include several reports on surface ablation approaches, such as LASEK and Epi-LASIK. The third of the sessions will primarily focus on intracorneal ring segments and will include descriptions of methods for implanting the devices as well as the results that have been achieved with them.

Results obtained with various wavefront-guided and optimised ablations will be presented at the fourth of the corneal remodelling sessions (Sunday, 8.00-10.30), which will also include reports on enhancements performed with the various systems, together with other means of dealing with less than optimal results.

The future of the FLAP

Also of interest to surgeons who practise corneal refractive surgery will be a symposium and a free paper session on Flap-related issues. The main symposium (Saturday, 16.00-18.00) will address the future of the Flap. Speakers at the session will discuss flap complications, corneal biomechanics, and will weigh the relative advantages of LASIK and surface ablation approaches such as Epi-LASIK.

The free paper session on Flap-related issues (Friday, 17.00-19.00) will include reports on results obtained with several of the new microkeratomes, including outcome comparisons

between patients who underwent LASIK with conventional microkeratomes and with femtosecond lasers.

AICCER

Also to be held during the meeting will be the VII National meeting of AICCER, The Italian Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, (Friday 8.00-17.00). The day-long session will have simultaneous translation in English and Italian and will cover new technologies and surgical techniques in cataract surgery and cataract surgery in complicated cases.

The session will include live surgery demonstrations of cataract surgery in difficult and complicated cases and reports on results obtained with a range of new and old IOL designs in terms of safety, predictability and visual quality.

It will conclude with a roundtable discussion on New Frontiers in Refractive Surgery: "When do excimer laser treatments apply".

