

## Launching of Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Glaucoma (Second Edition)



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KUALA LUMPUR, - The second edition of the Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) on the Management of Glaucoma was launched at the 7<sup>th</sup> Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Conference (COSC) on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

The CPG was handed out to Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology (MSO) president, Dr Kenneth Fong Choong Sian, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the medical faculty of University Malaya.

Produced by Dr Jelinar Mohamed Noor,

chairperson of the Development Group, and her team, the CPG on Management of Glaucoma (Second Edition) is a milestone in the field of Ophthalmology in Malaysia. The updated CPG is an evidence-based guideline, and the result of a multidisciplinary Development Group, Review Committee and External Reviewers from the specialties of Ophthalmology, Family Medicine, Optometry, Pharmacy and Public Health from MoH, Ministry of Higher Education and the private sector.

It is hoped that the guidelines will be used by all healthcare providers in the management of adult-diagnosed glaucoma, in particular Primary Open Angle Glaucoma and Primary Angle Closure Glaucoma.

The updated CPG also covers the management of selected conditions. A total of 16 clinical questions were developed under different sections, and literature from the past 10 years, mainly systematic reviews and clinical trials, was retrieved and assessed for inclusion in the CPG. References were also made to other established guidelines on glaucoma by other guideline developers. Recommendations were formulated based on the accepted evidence with local practices taken into consideration. This CPG was also written strictly based on requirements of Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation (AGREE) II.

The draft of the CPG was reviewed by external reviewers, and was finally presented to the Technical Advisory Committee for CPG, and the HTA and CPG Council of the ministry for review and approval. The final product is a CPG that is comprehensive and contains 9 recommendations, 5 algorithms and 12 appendices highlighting important topics on the management of glaucoma in adults.

In addition to the CPG, the ministry has introduced implementation strategies such as the Quick Reference and Training Module to increase its utility. All of these documents are accessible on the MoH, MSO and the Academy of Medicine websites, to facilitate access to as many people as possible nationwide.

The publication of the Glaucoma CPG and Quick Reference Guide was funded by an unrestricted grant from the MSO.

“The State Health Directors, Hospital Directors and Medical Officers of Health have an important role in implementing the CPG at their respective levels. Apart from that, I hope that the Deans of the Medical Faculties and Principles of Allied Health Schools will use the CPG for the training of their students. This is a national evidence-based CPG and therefore both healthcare providers in the public and private sectors are expected to use the document in their daily clinical work,” said MoH Director General Datuk Dr Noor Hisham in his speech, which was delivered by Datin Dr Inderjeet Kaur Gill, Senior Principal Assistant Director Medical Development Division, MoH.

The 7<sup>th</sup> COSC titled “Angles and Curves: New Perspectives on Cornea and Glaucoma Management”, was organised by the

Malaysian Universities Conjoint Committee of Ophthalmologists (MUCCO) with the collaboration of University of Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and MoH.

Guest speakers included Dr Pravin K Vaddavalli, Director of the Tej Kohli Cornea Institute at LV Prasad Eye Institute and Head of Refractive surgery, Cataract and Contact Lens services at the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India; and Associate Professor Dr Wong Hon Tym, Medical Director of Singapore's National Healthcare Group Eye Institute and a Senior Consultant in the Ophthalmology Department, Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

Dr Wong spoke on the facts and fallacy of the Cornea and Intraocular Pressure while Dr Pravin presented the Mohd Noor Marahakim Award lecture, focusing on corneal blindness and the overall strategy for control.

The Mohd Noor Marahakim award was presented posthumously to the late Dr Joseph Alagaratnam. Dr Jamalia Rahmat, paediatric ophthalmologist from Hospital Kuala Lumpur and a pupil of Dr Alagaratnam, delivered a citation in his memory.



## Ophthalmologist honoured for his life-long dedication

PASSION and discipline are important in pursuing your dreams. Known for his countless research projects and symposiums, Dr Y.C. Lee has carved a name for himself in the ophthalmology world. He has dedicated his life to the cause for more than 40 years.

He achieved another milestone in his career and made the country proud too when he became the first Malaysian to receive the Honored Guest Award from American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) for his contributions in ophthalmology.

The award honours luminaries whose life-long clinical research, or ophthalmic industry experience and accomplishments enable the recipient to offer a unique perspective on the current state of ophthalmology and the healing arts. Dr Lee received the recognition for his dedication and contribution to the field through his renowned surgical innovations in the management of complicated cataracts.

When asked about the recognition, Dr Lee said he was happy but also surprised at the same time as he did not expect to receive an award of such stature.

"I got an email from the former ASCRS president Kerry Solomon stating that I received the recognition and I was not expecting it to happen. Most of the recipients were Americans, rarely an Asian. I have received many awards but this is not the end."

"I am passionate about this field and I will continue learning. Ophthalmology has evolved so much over the years that we have to keep learning to make sure we stay relevant in this field," he told reporters in his office at Lee Eye Centre in Persiaran Greenhill.

Before taking up eye surgery, Dr Lee undertook neurosurgery when he was a houseman at Hospital Kuala Lumpur but learnt that it did not suit him.



"I had to be on call all the time for neurosurgery. I did not like the lifestyle because I needed some balance.

Also, with ophthalmology, there is a combination of a few things that I like as it is a discipline comprising medical and surgical aspects.

"Also, there were very few ophthalmologists at the time, it was a challenge to enter the field," said Dr Lee, who graduated from University of Singapore in 1967. So, I decided to specialise in ophthalmology and what a journey it has been. All these years, I did numerous scientific publications and contributed my input to many text books," he said.

Dr Lee is a fellow of the International Intraocular Implant Club, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and a founding member of the Asia Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (APACRS).



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