

Optometry DistList

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- Embarrassment, fear can make patients clam up
- The eyes have it: unlocking transplant tolerance in diabetes patients

Date: 12 January 2019

From: M Srikanth (srikanthm@lvpei.org)

Subject: The Practical Optical Dispensing course at LVPEI

Applications are invited for the practical optical dispensing course at LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

Suitable participants: Optometry graduates from ASCO-recognized schools/colleges, maximum experience 2 years

Program mode: Blended (Online and Face-to-face); Visit to the campus two times (1st visit for 4 days & 2nd visit for 3 days).

Program duration: 10 weeks (2.5 months)

Fee: (Registration+Tuition): 20,000 INR (Includes boarding and lodging during hands-on sessions)

Total seats available: 20

Location for hands-on training: Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, GPR Campus, Kismatpur, Hyderabad, Telangana, India - 500086

Contact details: srikanthm@lvpei.org, rajesh@lvpei.org

Last date of application: 8th February, 2019

For more details, please click the link: <http://www.lvpei.org/events/2019/practical-optical-dispensing/index.html>

Date: 25 January 2019

From: Gouri pravalika (gouripravalitha.p@gmail.com)

Subject: Virus-based treatment for retinoblastoma shows promising results

A potential treatment for retinoblastoma has shown promising results in mouse models and a pilot clinical trial.

The research involved harnessing a virus that infects and kills cells with the dysfunctional genetic pathway that leads to retinoblastoma.

The treatment, named VCN-01, was found to be safe in rabbits. Mice with retinoblastoma who were injected with the therapy experienced curtailed tumour growth compared to mice treated with chemotherapy.

The new treatment also prevented metastasis and extended the time to enucleation.

In two paediatric patients with retinoblastoma, VCN-01 replicated within tumour cells without causing systemic inflammation. The authors highlighted that these results suggest the virus-based treatment warrants further investigation.

For complete article, click here: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.aat9321>

Date: 29 January 2019

From: Sneha Ananthakrishnan (iyers3012@gmail.com)

Subject: Glaucoma affects recognition of gender, facial expression - Healio Primary care optometry news

Patients with glaucoma, even when visual acuity is still good, require a significantly shorter viewing distance to recognize gender and facial expression as compared with healthy subjects, which may be due to higher sensitivity to crowding, according to a study.

When questioned about their difficulties with everyday life, patients with glaucoma often report having difficulties with face recognition, a skill that is critical for social interaction.

A group of researchers at two French universities investigated the effect of viewing distance on face recognition skills in 16 patients with glaucoma and 16 age-matched controls. The age range was 48 to 80 years. [Faces were centrally displayed](#) on a screen at six sizes, from 0.75 m to 24 m, simulating different viewing distances.

Patients were asked to recognize gender and facial expressions, namely happy, angry and neutral. Each of the three facial expressions were presented five times with male faces and five times with female faces, for a total of 30 trials.

Glaucoma patients needed a significantly shorter distance and, therefore, a larger size image, to recognize gender and expression than the controls. Gender was recognized at a longer distance than expression, and happy faces were recognized at a longer distance as compared with angry and neutral faces.

A subgroup analysis, where patients with lower visual acuity were excluded, showed that patients with glaucoma and normal acuity still require longer distances than controls. Age also had no significant influence on the results.

“We suggest that the patients requiring larger faces than those of the controls [might result from a higher sensitivity to crowding](#), which alters the appearance of faces and increases the difficulty to perceive the relevant features for recognition of sex and facial expressions,” the authors wrote. Crowding, they explained “describes an inability to recognize an object (or a letter) when other objects (letters) are present nearby.”

Further studies on a large number of patients are needed to corroborate this hypothesis, they concluded. – by Michela Cimberle

Date: 30 January 2019
From: Suharsha PVN (pvnssuharsha@gmail.com)
Subject: Embarrassment, fear can make patients clam up

A recent study shows as many as 4 out of 5 patients admitted to having ever kept medically relevant information from their clinician, most often arising in circumstances involving clinician recommendations and patient behaviors.

Why would patients knowingly withhold relevant information from their health care provider? It's mostly a combination of fear and shame, researchers say.

Per their analysis, researchers found younger respondents tended to withhold information more frequently than the older group; however, both groups aligned on their reasons why. Most often respondents reported not wanting to be judged or lectured about certain behaviors; not wanting to hear how bad a behavior was for them; and were too embarrassed to admit something.

And the most common things they didn't tell their doctors? They often reported avoiding telling their clinician they disagreed with a recommendation; admitting they did not understand the clinician's instructions; confessing to an unhealthy diet; and not taking a medication as prescribed.

Eye care is no different.

Efficient, effective patient care is a two-way street where clear, trusting communication is the linchpin whereby all health outcomes are based. "However, we, as health care providers, can try to break down communication barriers by making a concerted effort not to pass judgement," Dr. Russo says. So, too, perhaps giving patients room to openly disagree could help address some of these concerns.

For complete article, click here: <https://www.aoa.org/news/clinical-eye-care/when-patients-lie-to-doctors>

Date: 06 February 2019

From: Chandrashekher M (chandrashekher.m@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: The eyes have it: unlocking transplant tolerance in diabetes patients

New research suggests using the eye as a transplant site may be key to preventing the rejection of insulin-producing donor cells in diabetes patients.

A new study found that islets transplanted in the eye could survive and function without long-term immune suppression. Researchers hope that the discovery could lead to tolerance in peripheral transplant sites.

Islet transplantation is used to restore natural insulin production in people with type 1 diabetes. However, at present diabetes patients require long-term immunosuppression to prevent the rejection of donor cells, which can result in serious side effects.

In a trial where diabetes patients received islet transplantation either in the kidney or the eye, both groups displayed islet survival for more than 300 days without immune suppression.

A second islet transplant into the kidney across all patients resulted in a 70% islet survival rate for more than 400 days in those who initially received a transplant in the eye, compared to a 30% survival rate in patients whose first transplant was in the kidney.

Dr Per-Olof Berggren, from the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami School of Medicine, said: "This approach may help to positively impact the success of islet transplantation for future treatment of diabetes."

Full article available at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00125-019-4814-4>

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