

The Department of Ophthalmology at Ipswich Hospital is part of the larger department of Ophthalmology at ESNEFT and works in concert with our sister site at Colchester.

We provide a comprehensive range of services in Ophthalmology led by consultants who are either subspecialty trained or have pursued a subspecialty interest. We also support the West Suffolk Hospital for vitreoretinal services and complex cataract surgery especially those patients that may need support from the vitreoretinal services.

Within the hospital we work off 4 clinical sites – the Outpatient Department situated near entrance 6, the Ophthalmology Day Care Unit (ODCU), Clinic 11 (for preassessments) and the temporary Macular treatment clinic situated in front of Entrance 6. We will soon be moving a majority of the retinal services to the new Retinal suite adjacent to the ODCU.

Equipment

We have recently undertaken a major upgrading of the equipment in the department.

Ultra-widefield retinal imaging with a scanning laser.

Widefield retinal imaging enables us to run fast throughput clinics where the patient has imaging done that is reviewed by a clinician later. Fluorescein angiography of the extreme retinal periphery also enables us to plan management of conditions like diabetic retinopathy more effectively.

OCT angiography

This non-invasive method uses laser interferometry to examine the microvasculature of the retina without the injection of a dye. This eliminates the risk of anaphylactic reactions (occasionally seen with traditional fluorescein angiography) and significantly reduces the time a patient spends in clinic.

Doubling of visual field capacity

We are acquiring two new Humphrey visual field analysers in addition to the two we already have. We hope to reduce the number of appointments- patients have had to attend the hospital on different dates for visual field tests and clinic appointments. Increased capacity will enable these to be booked on the same day. This does unfortunately mean that an individual patient may have to spend more time in the hospital on the day.

A state-of-the-art new operating microscope

This offers enhanced viewing for intraocular surgery and particularly for vitreoretinal surgery.

Heidelberg HRA II system which offers comprehensive retinal imaging

This is a retinal imaging system that can be used to perform Fluorescein and Indocyanine Green Angiography, in addition to OCT scans and OCT angiography.

A portable OCT system

Standard OCT scanners may be difficult to use in children and other patients who may have difficulty positioning at the machine. The portable OCT was purchased with the help of generous donations to the Eye Appeal that was started just over a year ago. We are humbled by the generosity of our patients who contributed to it as well as the industry and staff in the department who contributed funds obtained from research activities (these research activities are done in their own time) or by participating in fund raising events.

Pentacam corneal topography and biometry

Pentacam is a state-of-the-art corneal topography system which enables analysis of the shape of the cornea.

Zeiss IOL master 700 biometry

This is used for measurements to be obtained for calculating the power of the intraocular lens to be implanted during cataract surgery.

Ultrasound biomicroscopy

This uses a high frequency transducer to obtain images of the anterior 1/3 of the eye at microscopic resolution (upto 20 microns axial resolution)

Electronic Health Record

The department has recently acquired the Medisight EHR system which is one of the few custom-built Ophthalmology EHR systems.

Teaching and training

The Department of Ophthalmology has been involved in training medical students from the University of Cambridge for a very long time. The teaching has been consistently rated as excellent by the students for a number of years and we also attract a number of medical students from across the country who chose the department for their elective posting. The current UG specialty tutor is Deepak Vayalambone.

The department also provides post graduate training for up to 4 trainees from the East of England deanery. Subspecialty training areas for trainees include Cornea, Vitreoretinal surgery, Medical Retina and uveitis, complex cataract surgery, Glaucoma and Oculoplastics. The Ophthalmology trauma course for trainees is highly appreciated and we plan to resume this in 2021 after it was cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

Consultant staff

Contact details for secretaries are available on the ESNEFT website or via switchboard.

Mr. Richard Goble - Richard specialises in Vitreoretinal surgery and Cataract surgery. He runs a vitreoretinal clinic on Monday and an emergency Vitreoretinal theatre on Tuesday.

Mr. Clive Edelsten - Clive is considered a world authority in inflammatory eye diseases especially paediatric uveitis and has clinics on Monday and Tuesday. He also leads on the neuro-ophthalmology service.

Miss Rachna Murthy - Rachna is fellowship trained at Moorfields and in Australia and runs the Oculoplastics service and the eyelid tumour service in addition to being seconded to run the thyroid eye disease service at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. Rachna has clinic and theatre sessions at Ipswich on Tuesday and Thursday.

Mr. Vasileios Kostakis - Mr Kostakis is fellowship trained in Paediatric Ophthalmology and leads the Paediatric Ophthalmology service at ESNEFT (Colchester and Ipswich). Vasileios has clinics at Ipswich (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and at Colchester (Tuesday) and has an interest in cataract surgery in addition to Paediatric Ophthalmology.

Mr. Deepak Vayalambrone - Deepak is the current clinical lead for Ophthalmology at ESNEFT covering the sites at Colchester and Ipswich with clinics and theatre sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Deepak specialises in Vitreoretinal surgery, high volume complex cataract surgery, Medical retina and leads the Diabetic Retinopathy service.

Mr. Kuranageri Poornesh – Mr Poornesh has a special interest in Age-related Macular Degeneration and Neuro-ophthalmology and has clinics on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Mr. Poornesh also has a keen interest in Ocular Coherence Tomography and leads the AMD service.

Mr. Ramy Bassily - Ramy specialises in corneal diseases, refractive cataract surgery and complex cataract surgery and has clinics and theatre sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Ramy leads the acute ophthalmology services in Ipswich. He has introduced collagen cross linking for treatment of Keratoconus and DMEK (Descemet's membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty) to Ipswich.

Mr. Gopan Ghosh - Gopan works at Ipswich on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and is a glaucoma specialist. He performs cataract surgery and glaucoma surgery.

Mr. Anthimos Vlavianos - Anthimos is the latest consultant to join Ipswich and specialises in Glaucoma. Trained at Moorfields, Anthimos performs a range of glaucoma surgery including tube shunts and has clinics on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Miss Mallika Goswami - Mallika has recently stepped up into a consultant role and has a special interest in Medical Retina and AMD. She also provides a temporal artery biopsy service and has an interest in Ocular inflammatory diseases. She works closely with the Rheumatology department.

Management team

General Manager- Emma Nunn works across both Colchester and Ipswich

Assistant General Manager- Karen Grove works across Colchester and Ipswich

They are assisted at Ipswich by Sarah Willingham who is the Operational coordinator for Ophthalmology in Ipswich

Administration staff

The administration staff are split into three main teams:

The admissions team

The admissions team is responsible for booking elective surgeries including cataracts, glaucoma, and corneal related surgeries. The team is led by Sharon Ovenall and can be contacted via the Ophthalmology department phone directory

Direct dial- 703230 Option 3

The secretarial team

Common email address Esneft.eyesecretaries@nhs.net

The secretarial team is made up of five members all responsible for two consultants each

Julia Glendenning – Julia is secretary to Mr. Vayalambrone and Mr. Goble, she is responsible for booking all activity related to the vitreoretinal service which includes the emergency vitreoretinal theatre lists.

Direct dial- 01473 703184

Yvette Davidson – Yvette is secretary to Mr. Kostakis and Miss Murthy and is also responsible for booking ocular plastic, minor op and squint surgeries.

Direct dial- 01473 702298

Jacky Macdonald – Jacky is secretary to Mr. Ghosh and Miss Goswami

Direct dial- 01473 704881

Millie Garnham – Millie is secretary to Mr. Vlavianos and Mr. Bassily

Direct dial- 01473 702673

Paula Varley – Paula is secretary to Mr. Edelsten and Mr. Poornesh

Direct dial- 01473 702597

The administrative team

The administrative team consist of the main bookings team and reception staff. They are responsible for handling the majority of the calls that come into the department.

Direct dial - 01473 703230- Option 5

Future plans

Developing stronger links with clinicians (General Practitioners, Optometrists and Nurse specialists) in the community. This includes looking at secure IT platforms to transfer data between the community and the hospital. We are also keen to welcome General Practitioners with an interest in Ophthalmology to work in the hospital. We would also be happy to explore options of outreach clinics in a General Practice setting.

Development of intermediate clinics that sit between the current Acute clinics and routine clinics as this would enable the hospital to discharge patients who have conditions with acute or subacute relapses but enable rapid access for patients. A step in this direction will be the Blue card discharges which is being rolled out across the trust.

Advice and guidance - we intend to develop advice and guidance clinics where General Practitioners and Opticians will be able to access advice from senior clinicians in the hospital.

EyeSi surgical simulator- The next **Eye Appeal** will see us try and help to fund the purchase of a surgical simulator for trainees to safely practice intraocular surgery.

There are other exciting developments in the pipeline including Femtosecond laser cataract surgery and 27 gauge vitreoretinal surgery.