Editorial report on Oculoplastics Surgical Skills, Tennent Institute of Ophthalmology, Glasgow

‘Practical Oculoplastics’ took place on September 3rd at the Tennent Institute of Ophthalmology, Gartnavel Hospital, Glasgow. The course organisers were Dr Maria Elena Gregory, Dr Suzannah Drummond and Dr Vikas Chadha.

There were 16 delegates, mainly specialist ophthalmology trainees and staff grades from around the UK. Lectures were given by Oculoplastic consultants and included hand outs.

The day began with a beautifully illustrated comprehensive review of adenexal anatomy by Dr Deepak Tejwani. Delegates then split into pairs and had to construct the lamellae of the lids using colour coded play-doh! This novel and interactive way of learning was a genius way of reinforcing basic anatomy.

Two intriguing presentations followed on ectropion and entropion delivered by Dr Vikas Chadha and Dr Kevin Crofts respectively. These included aetiology, clinical assessment and basic principles in surgical approach.

Dr Ewan Kemp gave a captive and comprehensive review of Trauma to Lids and Adenexal tissue. Basic principles of lid reconstruction were addressed progressing to more complex cases.

Lunch was provided at a charming local Italian Restaurant and attended by all faculty and delegates. This made for excellent rapport building.
The highlight of the course was the afternoon practical wet lab! The delegates were divided into groups of four and rotated around consultant led stations covering techniques of lateral tarsal strip, pentagon excision, Wies/ Quickert, medial spindle and inverting sutures and Z plasty. Stations had online demonstrations of each procedure and provided a relaxed environment in which to practice surgical skills with consultant guidance.

This comprehensive course was excellent value for money and used novel, modern and multimedia techniques for learning. The course will be held again next year on 9th September.

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