Medisoft supports the NHS in reducing cataract surgery complications

A collaboration between Medisoft and The Royal College of Ophthalmologists provides new insights on cataract surgery outcomes in England and Wales. The result? Substantial improvements in care including a 38% reduction in posterior capsular rupture complications.

The cooperation between Medisoft Limited and The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) started almost five years ago, when the RCOphth was commissioned to run the National Ophthalmology Database (NOD) Audit by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership. NOD enables cataract surgery outcomes to be compared across England and Wales and is a vital safeguard of patient safety and a promoter of best practice, aiming to eradicate variation in the provision of cataract surgery and patient care. The NOD provides reassurance to patients and the public that the hospital eye service is of a good standard and drives continuous quality improvement within the profession.

Data collection on this scale is a huge challenge and can only work if structured outcome data is generated as a by-product of the clinical process. Medisoft's Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system was identified as an ideal delivery vehicle for the audit, having been designed by ophthalmologists to enable paperless working and deliver rapid audit of clinical outcomes.

Over the last five years, the NOD audit has been gathering data on cataract surgery performed in England and Wales, with the vast majority of the data collected and automatically submitted via Medisoft's Electronic Medical Records system. The database provides individual surgeons, healthcare providers and the public with benchmarked reports on performance and surgical complications, with the ultimate aim of improving patient outcomes. Notably, the most recent NOD figures show a 38% reduction in the unadjusted Posterior Capsule Rupture (PCR) rate from 2% in 2010 to 1.2% in 2017-2018, equating to approximately 3,400 fewer complications per year suffered as a result of this surgery.



> *"This unique audit reinforces the huge power of structured data. Ophthalmologists can't be expected to fill in audit forms in addition to their clinical notes, so reusing routine treatment data for audit and research is the most efficient way to drive quality improvement. Medisoft's EMR is standardised, meaning that comparing data from different centres is straightforward and meaningful. We are delighted to have been a key enabler for this project by providing the software through which these measures have been collected,"* said Christian Martin, Managing Director, Medisoft Limited.



Substantial improvements in patient care

NOD figures reveal a 38% reduction in the unadjusted PCR rate from 2% in 2010 to 1.2% in 2017-2018, equating to approximately 3,400 fewer complications per year as a result of cataract surgery.

The future of NOD and the #makemydatacount campaign

Until 31 August 2019, the NOD project was subsidised by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, but on 1 September 2019 the project moved onto a self-sustaining basis. The RCOphth argues that national clinical audits are an essential component of quality health delivery, and are campaigning, based on the success of the first phase of the audit, for NOD to be a national priority. Specifically, they are actively engaging with NHS England, NHS Improvement, government health decision-makers and through fundraising and awareness programmes (#makemydatacount) to ensure that funding can be secured to sustain and extend the audit in years to come.

"It is gratifying to see evidence of increased clinician engagement with the NOD project. 79 of the 119 eligible NHS Trusts in England and Wales and three independent providers of NHS funded cataract surgery submitted data on over 232,000 operations. Whilst there are other electronic medical record providers involved with the NOD audit, the majority have been submitted via use of the Medisoft EMR. We have also seen significant improvements in data completion rates as the real-world benefits of the audit have become apparent. This allows meaningful recommendations to be made to patients, commissioners, providers and surgeons,"

said Michael Burdon, President, The Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

More information about Medisoft Limited:
www.medisoft.co.uk

More information about The Royal College of Ophthalmologists:
www.rcophth.ac.uk

More information about the National Ophthalmology Database (NOD):
www.nodaudit.org.uk