

NCC 'FUTURE GENERATION 2024' PAPER Abstracts
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NCC 'Future generation 2024'

Organization Section: NCC/ BCLA

PAPER Abstracts

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NCC Doing Research: The frequency of protocol and informed consent use for contact lens instructions in the Netherlands and Belgium.

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Purpose: It is unclear if patient contact lens (CL) non-compliance is related to the consistent delivery of the instruction by the eye care practitioner (ECP). We explored the current clinical practice in the Netherlands and Belgium related to the use of written protocols and informed consent for CL instructions.

Method: Delegates attending the NCC conference (26-27 June 2022) were asked to complete an electronic survey about CL instructions including application, removal, and hygiene provided to patients in their own workplace. The survey consisted of 32 mandatory multiple-choice questions, and participants were not able to return to an earlier question.

Results: Of the 260 participants who completed the survey, 135 (51.9%) were optometrist, 100 (38.5%) were dispensing optician, CL specialist, or orthoptist, and 25 (9.6%) were student. The majority (n=234; 90%) worked in a private practice (independent or multiple) while the remaining (n=26; 10%) practiced optometry in a medical setting or industry. CL instructions were provided by the optometrist or CL specialist (n=161; 62%), while 99 (38%) reported this was completed by someone else in the practice (dispensing optician, support

staff, student). An internal instruction protocol was available in written format (44%), verbal only (48%), or non-existent (8%). During the last 2 years, 81 ECPs (31%) did not amend the protocol, whereas the main reason for any changes were based on further training (44%). Informed consent including risk awareness was implemented at all times (5%), only for children (<18 years; 6%), only for ortho-keratology lenses (40%), or never (49%).

Conclusions: The majority of Dutch/Belgium ECPs who fit CLs also provide the CL instructions. More than half of the ECPs (56%) do not have written instruction protocols in place, which may impact the consistency of CL instructions. Half of the ECPs do not provide informed consent including risk awareness, which ultimately may lead to CL non-compliance.

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