

FEOph Symposium Berlin on 28th September 2019

To Inject or Not to Inject? Antibiotics in Cataract Surgery – FEOph Symposium and Roundtable Discussion

During the FEOph Symposium on 28 September 2019 in Berlin at the DOG Congress, junior speakers from Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Great Britain gave lectures on the subject of endophthalmitis (prophylaxis and therapy). The presentations were followed by a roundtable discussion with five experts from these countries. The participants discussed national views on the perioperative use of antibiotics for the prophylaxis of endophthalmitis. The participants in the panel discussion were: Barbara Ameline (Paris, France), Fabrizio Camesasca (Milano, Italy), Gerassimos Lascaratos (London, United Kingdom), Rafael Bilbao (Madrid, Spain), and Thomas Ness (Freiburg, Germany).

The junior presentations were as follows:

Robert Kromer (Hamburg, Germany): Intraoperative contamination by preserved multi-dose eye drops.

Juliette Knoeri (Paris, France): Antibiotics in endophthalmitis post cataract surgery.

Alessio Montericcio (Trapani, Italy): Ingredients in the Anterior Chamber: Bacteria and antibiotics. The Italian Recipe.

Andrea Llovet (Valencia, Spain): Incidence of endophthalmitis before and after using intracameral cefuroxime in phacoemulsification.

Paolo Meier (London, United Kingdom): Keep calm and inject antibiotics.

The discussion focused mainly on the postoperative endophthalmitis prophylaxis. In most countries, antibiotics are prescribed postoperatively for 1 to 2 weeks. The main reasons for the administration of antibiotics are medicolegal and not scientific reasons. Aminoglycosides are used as postoperative endophthalmitis prophylaxis in France, combined preparations with neomycin and polymyxin in United Kingdom and moxifloxacin in Spain, whilst tobramycin plus dexamethasone is the most popular in Italy, even though an old combination of chloramphenicol and betametasone was suggested in a previous FEOph Round Table in Rome to reduce the unuseful consumption of newer class of antibiotics. Anyway, this practice is viewed critically by the participants in view of the entry of antibiotics into the environment (antibiotic pollution, heavily used mostly in agriculture) and the possible promotion of resistance. In addition, there are no studies showing that the administration of pre- and postoperative topical antibiotics can reduce the endophthalmitis rate. The panelists did not see any rationale for the preoperative administration of antibiotics. Here, the timely correct administration of PVP iodine followed by rinsing is the standard in all countries.