



Ophthalmology in the Era of COVID 19

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The recent year has brought us new challenges, mainly coping with the COVID 19 pandemic. In addition to obvious concern of protecting the patients and ourselves we had to work and live in uncertain surroundings. Working in such conditions is definitely different than any other scenario we are used to – even mass casualty incidents, war trauma and other extreme situations.

It also raises thoughts and concerns such as what will follow, is this one of a series of pandemic events yet to come? Will we see the day after a rebound effect – patients that were frightened to come to the hospital will come back suffering from delayed treatment in addition to their disease? And last, but not less important certainly, our concerns to the wellbeing of our family and friends.

In the field of Ophthalmology, we are still learning what are the possible effects of COVID 19 on the eye. A few case reports were already published however we do not have yet enough data to draw conclusions. Never the less we can assume that the hyper coagulability effect of COVID 19 as well as infection and inflammation will affect the eye as it affects other organs.

So – maybe the best way is to behave as travelers in an unknown land – be aware of danger, keep attention to what goes on and...keep on going. Fear is as we all know a very bad adviser. The one more thing which is important is sharing. Sharing experience, impressions, success, failures and even filings, is important. The era of the COVID 19 is also the era in which we have an internet, free communication and the ability to reach far destinations in no time. In this case, sharing is not only the quest of being a guide or become famous but rather saving lives.

We thought that we faced already the whole major events however this crisis taught us that there is always still to learn and that reality is an ever changing situation so we should adopt a flexible, creative imagination and be ready to adopt different unknown new approach in order to be well prepared to changes.

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COVID 19 is dreadful lethal disease, however though it has these aspects we should try to get from it the lessons we can learn, some of which I tried to describe and some will probably will be relevant and we will be aware of in the future. We pay a price but should take advantage and learn from it in order to face the next pandemic, if it will break, more prepared and less confused.

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