

Corona Virus and Ophthalmologists

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We, the humans are facing this novel Corona virus, named Covid-19 for the last two years. It has jolted the whole world. Perhaps no human being living today has never seen this type of disease before. The new disease initially was thought to be a respiratory disease.

But with each passing day, we are finding its new clinical symptoms.

Some scientists have been trying to name it some syndrome. But the symptoms are so diverse and the disease is so new that so far, we can't give it a specific name.

My focus in this small article is to concentrate on the impact of Corona virus on ophthalmologists around the world. I will not be going in statistical details.

Ophthalmology is one of the most vulnerable specialty because, while examining the patients on slit lamp, the distance is less than 33 cm between the examiner and the patient. And the chance of interacting infection by air droplet is very high. Though, many innovative methods have been adopted to make a barrier between the doctor and the patient. Like by inserting plastic sheets and even old unused x rays in slit lamp to make a barrier, it may not be effective because of bad design. Moreover, even with these shields, the virus can come from above and below the barriers.

The point on which I want to emphasize is that unlike other specialties, ophthalmologists have to take extraordinary measures to prevent themselves.

I suggest, that areas where infectivity rate is very high, especially with the UK strain, eye clinics should entertain only emergencies.

Similarly, elective surgeries should be postponed where possible.

I also suggest for general population to stay at home as much as possible to remain safe, though it may not be possible for countries like India and Pakistan.

In the end, I would like all the doctors, medical students and especially genetic engineers to work on the genome of the virus. I predicted about more than six months back that because of fast mutations of this virus, only one universal vaccine or medicine will not be sufficient.

Please watch the attached video of 7 minutes length of mine in which I have presented my observations, hypothesis and fears for the future.

YouTube video link: <https://youtu.be/FiPMI2N4h-M>.

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