TRAINEE SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF VIRTUAL CLINICS ON OPHTHALMOLOGY TRAINING IN 2022

Akshatha Ranganath, Vaishnavi Menon, NP Manjunatha

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

BACKGROUND

- Virtual clinics have become an essential part of ophthalmology clinics especially after the COVID-19 pandemic[1]
- However, there is no formal training given to trainees on how to prepare or run a virtual ophthalmology clinic[1]
- **Aim:** To explore if ophthalmology trainees in the West Midlands are adequately equipped to undertake virtual clinics and to improve educational measures to support them in doing so
- **Methods:** An anonymous web-survey was created on Jot forms and distributed by email and/or WhatsApp messenger to registrar ophthalmology trainees (ST3+) in the West Midlands deanery in the month of November 2022

CONCLUSIONS

- Virtual clinics within the ophthalmology department have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic
- Most of the trainees (ST3+) had previous experience in virtual clinics but did not feel confident in conducting them
- Common barriers were in management planning, assessing ocular pathology from photography and interpreting visual fields
- There was a very low rate of formal teaching being given by ophthalmology departments and the West Midlands deanery on how to conduct virtual clinics
- All trainees felt that the COVID-19 pandemic had a moderate-severe impact on their ophthalmology training
- **Recommendations:** Clinical proformas in local ophthalmology departments, local and deanery teaching related to conducting virtual clinics, e-portfolio and e-learning tools

REFERENCES: 1. Ferrara, M., Romano, V., Steel, D.H. *et al.* Reshaping ophthalmology training after COVID-19 pandemic. *Eye* **34**, 2089–2097 (2020)

RESULTS

- Response rate 15/28 (54%) trainees



