

Refractiveonline is an innovative conference devoted to refractive surgery.

It was devised with 3 important objectives:

- 1.- teaching, bringing less expert people into contact with the basic concepts of refractive surgery
- 2.- continuous education for specialists and opportunities to meet the greatest experts on the international scene
- 3.- information on and in-depth analysis of new technologies.

It is a totally new kind of conference:

- using virtual links to bring the best ophthalmologists on the international scene to us when actual participation by these specialists is not possible.
- it has a computerised support platform: the website of the congress (www.refractiveonline.com) contains all the subjects covered in the various editions since 2000 with a search engine that is able to show all the presentations connected with a specific subject, or all the subjects covered by a selected speaker.

The various subjects connected with refractive surgery are analysed in depth starting from diagnostics and comparing the various instruments that are available, with particular focus on research into and practical application of aberrometry.

Differing refractive surgery techniques are analysed: excimer laser surgery (custom ablation), conductive keratoplasty, intraocular surgery (phakic lenses, multifocal lenses).

The conference aims to achieve not only a high scientific profile but also to become a practically useful tool: for example helping ophthalmologists decide when refractive surgery is the most suitable treatment or choose the most appropriate surgical technique for each patient.

This year the congress focussed particularly on the cross linking method devoting a whole day to it during which the experiences and the initial results of the Italian and international centres using this method were presented.

The Refractiveonline project aims to involve leading ophthalmologists in the quest for excellence in refractive surgery by becoming a means for publicising information and for teaching, to promote continuous education for specialists all over the world.