Status Report for Council Advisory Recommendation 21-01 (December 2021)

Title: Improving Ophthalmic Trauma Care and Education

Report From: Christopher J. Rapuano, MD, Senior Secretary for Clinical Education and Maria M. Aaron, MD, Secretary for Annual Meeting

Analysis:

This CAR on behalf of the American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma (ASOT) outlines the effects ophthalmic trauma in visual impairment and monocular vision loss and the impact of this issue on society. They propose several solutions to address this issue through improvements in ophthalmic trauma care and education and seek to collaborate with the Academy, the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO), the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and various state and sub-specialty societies.

The Academy has provided significant resources and invested substantial effort to support ophthalmic trauma care and applauds ASOT for its work in this area. A comprehensive historical background and an overview of the Academy’s current efforts were provided in the March 2021 Academy Background statement.

Moving forward, the Academy encourages ASOT 1) to develop a strategic document with prioritized objectives and associated tactics to support the design, development, and implementation of these initiatives and 2) to communicate with the Academy’s Ophthalmic Society Relations group as progress in this initiative is made.

Rating: 3 = Currently being implemented by the following AAO activities:

Report: The Academy has initiated various initiatives to address the CAR 21-01 since March 2021 and the previous update from August 2021. These include the following:

1. In the spirit of the Academy’s shared goal to support ophthalmic trauma care and education and in consultation with Academy Education leadership, the Academy Education Division extended an invitation to ASOT to provide a peer review of BCSC Section 7: Oculofacial Plastic and Orbital Surgery. It is expected that this review would be on areas applicable to ophthalmic trauma with the review by ASOT completed and submitted to the Academy by early August 2021. Upon receipt, the Academy’s BCSC Section 7 writing committee would take the comments into consideration and make final decisions on content and coverage. Feedback from ASOT leadership stated that they “are very much interested in this opportunity!”

   Status Update: The Academy received the ASOT review of BCSC Section 7, which was delivered to the BCSC Section 7 committee. The committee will have its revision meeting in January 2022 and will review the ASOT reviewer’s comments. From there the committee will incorporate accordingly as it sees fit into the major revision, which is scheduled to publish in June 2023.

2. To assist ASOT’s goal to improve trauma education, the Annual Meeting Program Committee is excited to offer a new Trauma Poster Theater session. Specifically, the 1-hour session would have ePosters displayed on a large monitor at the Poster Theater and a moderated audience discussion would follow each poster presentation. Likewise, Trauma will be added as a searchable track for AAO 2021 with these posters coded under this track. The same posters could be found under their original subspecialty track, and a keyword search via the annual meeting program search could be used to deliver robust search results. ASOT leadership stated, “We appreciate the adding of Trauma as a searchable track. The Poster Theater sounds awesome.”

Rating: 0 = Recommend no action because... 1 = Currently being addressed by the following AAO activities... 2 = Good idea but cannot implement right now because... 3 = Implemented or will be implemented by...
**Status Update:** These were successfully executed during the AAO 2021 Annual Meeting. Namely, a poster session (Session PT09: Trauma), two On-Demand sessions (819V: Open Globe Trauma: Surgical Management for the On-Call Ophthalmologist and LEC134V: Ophthalmic Trauma: Military Lessons on Management), and a symposium (SYM22: Ophthalmic Trauma: Responsibilities of the Ophthalmologist) were held. Likewise, the topic, Trauma, was added as a searchable keyword that delivers 22 results (e.g., posters, videos, on-demand only sessions, et al.).

3. In addition the Academy is currently in discussions with ASOT re: the possibility of additional educational events such as webinars on various topics to include prescribing topical anesthetics in the ER setting.

**Status Update:** ASOT and the Academy are currently in conversations to develop a trauma webinar session for the 1st quarter of 2022.
Status Report for Council Advisory Recommendation 21-02

Title: Limiting Outpatient Access to Topical Ophthalmic Anesthetics

Report From: David B Glasser, MD - Secretary for Federal Affairs

Analysis:
Extended use of topical ophthalmic anesthetics (TOA’s) can lead to serious patient harm and vision loss if used inappropriately. We therefore propose that these medications be limited to diagnostic use and that additional measures be taken to limit inappropriate use.

Rating: 1

Report: In response to this CAR, the Academy met with FDA in late June to discuss regulatory solutions to the problem. FDA was receptive to our concerns and one of the topics we discussed was the possibility of a label change to topical ophthalmic anesthetics that included a warning against dispensing to patients. The FDA has informed the Academy that they are reviewing our request but did highlight that while achievable, getting companies to submit a labeling change was not a quick process. The Academy will be meeting again with FDA on this issue in early 2022.