

Letters

Watch Your Words

Your article entitled “Reducing Patient Anxiety During Surgery” (Clinical Update, September) reminded me of a recent patient who was referred to my office by an optometrist. When I mentioned his refractive error, he immediately became anxious and finally told me that he interpreted my statement to mean that the optometrist must have made a mistake doing his refraction and had given him the wrong glasses.

At first I thought of the old Chinese proverb that goes something like, “You don’t know what you’ve said until the listener hears it.” Then I thought that perhaps we need a new term for the phrase “refractive error.”

Later, I realized that this is just another example of what happens when one group tries to cope with another group’s jargon. “Refractive error” makes sense to us, but can be mysterious to the lay public. When a



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person in one field tries to speak the jargon of a person in another field, the result is usually awkward, occasionally inaccurate, and frequently pretentious. The first thing that just about every patient asks when you hand him/her their eyeglass prescription is, “Is it stronger?” This always leaves me speechless. After all, the concept of “stronger” or “weaker” doesn’t really fit with my understanding of physiological optics. But then, this is my patient’s jargon—his/her way of comprehending the situation.

So how about we say something like, “Mr. Smith, your eyes need an optical correction to improve your vision. Here is your new eyeglass prescription.” I have a feeling that plain language will reduce our patients’ anxiety level.

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CAUTION: Federal (USA) law restricts this device to sale by, or on the order of, a physician.

As part of a properly maintained surgical environment, it is recommended that a backup IOL Injector be made available in the event the AutoSert® IOL Injector Handpiece does not perform as expected.

INDICATION: The CENTURION® Vision System is indicated for emulsification, separation, irrigation, and aspiration of cataracts, residual cortical material and lens epithelial cells, vitreous aspiration and cutting associated with anterior vitrectomy, bipolar coagulation, and intraocular lens injection. The AutoSert® IOL Injector Handpiece is intended to deliver qualified AcrySof® intraocular lenses into the eye following cataract removal.

The AutoSert® IOL Injector Handpiece achieves the functionality of injection of intraocular lenses. The AutoSert® IOL Injector Handpiece is indicated for use with the AcrySof® lenses SN60WF, SN6AD1, SN6AT3 through SN6AT9, as well as approved AcrySof® lenses that are specifically indicated for use with this inserter, as indicated in the approved labeling of those lenses.

WARNINGS: Appropriate use of CENTURION® Vision System parameters and accessories is important for successful procedures. Use of low vacuum limits, low flow rates, low bottle heights, high power settings, extended power usage, power usage during occlusion conditions (beeping tones), failure to sufficiently aspirate viscoelastic prior to using power, excessively tight incisions, and combinations of the above actions may result in significant temperature increases at incision site and inside the eye, and lead to severe thermal eye tissue damage.

Good clinical practice dictates the testing for adequate irrigation and aspiration flow prior to entering the eye. Ensure that tubings are not occluded or pinched during any phase of operation.

The consumables used in conjunction with ALCON® instrument products constitute a complete surgical system. Use of consumables and handpieces other than those manufactured by Alcon may affect system performance and create potential hazards.

AEs/COMPLICATIONS: Inadvertent actuation of Prime or Tune while a handpiece is in the eye can create a hazardous condition that may result in patient injury. During any ultrasonic procedure, metal particles may result from inadvertent touching of the ultrasonic tip with a second instrument. Another potential source of metal particles resulting from any ultrasonic handpiece may be the result of ultrasonic energy causing micro abrasion of the ultrasonic tip.

ATTENTION: Refer to the Directions for Use and Operator’s Manual for a complete listing of indications, warnings, cautions and notes.

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