

An audit looking at the ophthalmic examination and history taking in the Urgent Care Unit

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Introduction

- In the UK, eye problems account for approximately 6% of all attendances in emergency department (ED) ¹. Where 90% of the patients presented are self-referral.²
- A survey of ED senior house officers found that almost 70% had little or no confidence in dealing with eye cases.¹

Aim & Objectives

- To assess the current adherence to the standard for the assessment of ophthalmic conditions in the Urgent Care Unit.

Methodology

- A retrospective audit looking at the last 20 consecutive patients presented with ophthalmic conditions in the last 6 months.
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 'Red Eye' guideline was used as a standard for this audit. The data was collated and analysed from the electronic records SystemOne.
- The result and implementation were presented to the emergency and urgent care department.

PERCENTAGE OF VA RECORDED

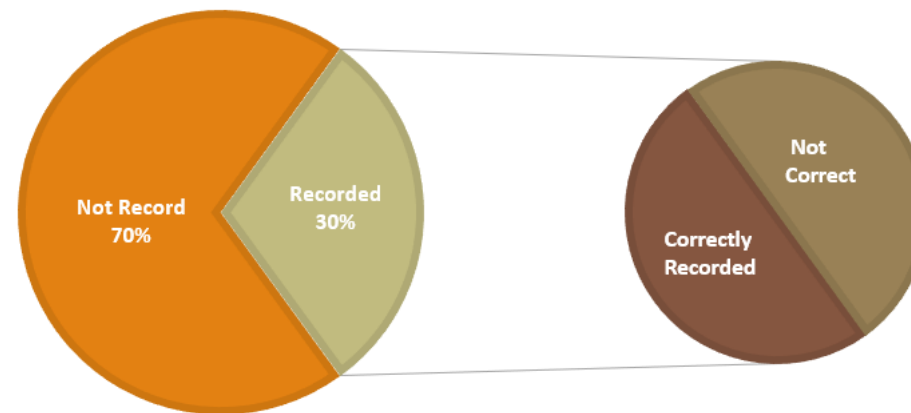


Figure 1. A pie chart (left) showing the percentage of patients having their VA checked. A pie chart (right) showing the proportion of the VA checked are being recorded correctly.

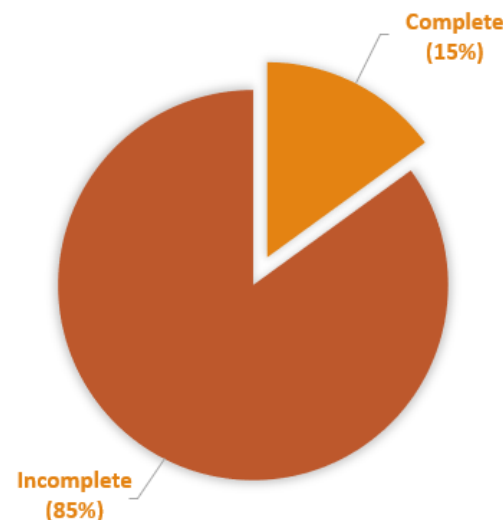


Figure 2. A pie chart showing majority of patient having an incomplete ophthalmic history.

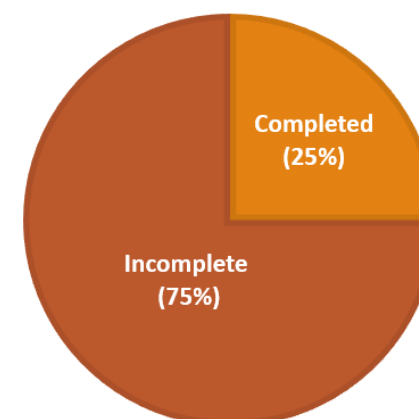


Figure 3. A pie chart showing the proportion of complete and incomplete pupillary examination.

Results

- We found that 70% of patients did not have their VA examined. Furthermore, only 15% of the VA recorded were in a correct format (Figure 1).
- Up to 85% and 75% of the patients have an incomplete ophthalmic history taking and pupillary examination, respectively (Figure 2 and 3).
- Majority of patients (90%) presented have a completed external eye examination.
- We implemented an A4 size Snellen chart in each consultation room and added ophthalmic history and examination template on SystemOne.

Conclusion

- A complete history and examination are imperative for good communication between the ED and the ophthalmology team.
- Our findings suggested that most patients presented have an inadequate ophthalmic history and examination.
- For patients to receive correct ophthalmic care, it is crucial to find ways to improve the confidence and skills of medical staff in the ED.
- To assess the effectiveness of the implementation, a re-audit is planned in March 2021.

References

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