

Questions are the Answer | Les questions sont la réponse

BY / PAR ALPHONSE CAREW, OD

The goal of any optometric exam is to identify the patient's visual needs and present clear and concise solutions to any problems. However, sometimes we fall short in delivering exemplary care when we focus solely on the patient's chief complaint as the exclusive reason for their visit. Often you need to dig deeper and determine all the needs of the patient!

A routine exam includes an in-depth case history and numerous procedures to diagnose disease and vision problems, but have you thought about how to best seek information from your patients that will identify other underlying issues – some of which they may not be aware? Many patients don't know what they need to know and won't realize there is a service, or a product that may be of help to them. It is your professional duty to discover these problem areas.

Sometimes, optometrists are shy about discussing issues that the patient hasn't first asked about, but it is important to acknowledge that you are not creating these problems. Your expertise lies in identifying them, offering expert solutions and then allowing the patient to consider all options that may provide relief or preventative care.

The key to identifying these underlying problems is to ask pertinent and probing questions. Take the example of proper UV protection with sunglasses. Nearly all of our patients could benefit from the preventive care offered by prescription (or non-prescription) sunglasses. Does your staff ask patients to bring their prescription sunglasses with them to the exam when calling to confirm their appointment? Even if they don't have any, it predisposes them to the idea that perhaps they should.

Do you ask the patient about their sunglasses as part of an intake form, or make it part of your case history? The simple question, "Do you have prescription sunglasses?" opens up the discussion about the importance of UV protection against cataracts and macular degeneration. Patients are very attuned to the harmful effects of the sun but often don't understand the harm it can do to their eyes. Without asking the right questions you may never uncover the patient's needs and ultimately provide the solution.

The use of probing questions allows you to bring awareness to issues that the patient may not have thought of, but that you deal with routinely. Family ocular history can be a great starting point.

Those who have had family members with eye diseases are quicker to respond and want to hear more about the latest research as well as any preventative measures that can they can take to decrease their risk of getting the disease.

In the end, selling to your patient becomes a three-step process.

First, ask questions that will identify vision or eye problems that your patient should be made aware of. Second, using your expert opinion, determine those that the patient needs to deal with. In a clear and concise manner you should have the patient understand why it is a need that they should look after. And lastly, tell them what solutions will satisfy those needs. Explain it in a way that will make them understand the benefits of your solutions. Mentioning progressive addition lenses as a solution to someone's visual needs is not as good as selling the benefit of getting their natural focus back so they can see both near and far as well as all points in between.

Keep in mind that patients aren't buying your products, but buying the product of your products. They are buying enhanced nighttime driving vision – not antiglare coating. They are buying more comfortable vision in bright conditions – not polarized lenses.

Don't present the products without presenting the benefit it brings.

Although there may be several different solutions available to satisfy the patients' needs, it is important that you decide which one you would recommend given their specific history and set of results. Giving many choices will only confuse your patients and ultimately end up decreasing the chances they will fulfil the recommendations you make. Patients see you for your expert recommendations, so give them clearly, concisely and with confidence.

If you have a desire to help your patients and believe that your services and products can satisfy their needs then you should feel comfortable in making strong solution recommendations. Don't only rely on the chief complaint for counselling but delve deeper to uncover all solutions to provide your patients with the best visual outcome possible.

Le but d'un examen optométrique est de déterminer les besoins visuels du patient et de présenter des solutions claires et concises à tous les problèmes. Toutefois, il nous arrive parfois de passer outre à des soins exemplaires parce que nous nous concentrons uniquement sur la plainte principale du patient, comme s'il s'agissait de la raison exclusive de sa visite. Nous devons souvent creuser pour déterminer tous les besoins du patient!

Un examen de routine comprend une observation approfondie des

antécédents et plusieurs procédures servant à diagnostiquer des maladies et des problèmes de vision mais avez-vous réfléchi à la meilleure façon d'obtenir des renseignements de vos patients afin de déceler d'autres problèmes sous-jacents, même s'ils ne sont pas conscients de certains d'entre eux? Bien des patients ne savent pas ce qu'ils doivent savoir et ne réaliseront pas qu'un service ou un produit pourrait leur être utile. Il en va de votre devoir professionnel de découvrir les questions qui posent problème.

Parfois, les optométristes hésitent à discuter de questions que le patient n'a pas d'abord soulevées mais il est important que vous vous rendiez compte que vous ne créez pas ces problèmes. Votre expertise tient dans leur reconnaissance, la présentation de solutions d'experts et de toutes les possibilités que le patient pourrait envisager pour le soulager ou lui fournir des soins préventifs.

La clé de la détermination des problèmes sous-jacents consiste à poser des questions pertinentes et exploratoires. Prenons l'exemple d'une bonne protection contre les rayons UV grâce à des lunettes de soleil. Pratiquement tous nos patients pourraient profiter des soins préventifs que confèrent des lunettes de soleil sur ordonnance (ou sans ordonnance). Est-ce que votre personnel pose des questions pour que les patients apportent leurs lunettes de soleil sur ordonnance à l'examen lorsqu'il appelle pour confirmer un rendez-vous? Même si les patients n'en ont pas, cela les prédispose à l'idée qu'ils

devraient peut-être en porter.

Posez-vous aux patients des questions sur leurs lunettes de soleil dans le formulaire d'accueil ou est-ce que cela fait partie de l'observation des antécédents? La simple question : « Avez-vous des lunettes de soleil sur ordonnance »? ouvre la voie à une discussion sur l'importance de la protection contre les rayons UV pour prévenir les cataractes et la dégénérescence maculaire. Les patients sont très au courant des effets nocifs du soleil mais ne comprennent souvent pas les dommages qu'ils peuvent causer à leurs yeux. Si vous ne posez pas les bonnes questions, il se pourrait que vous ne découvriez jamais les besoins des patients et, en bout de ligne, que vous ne leur donniez pas de solution.

Le recours à des questions exploratoires vous permet de faire ressortir des questions auxquelles le patient n'a peut-être pas songé mais que vous réglez couramment. L'observation des antécédents oculaires dans la famille peut être un excellent point de départ. Ceux dont certains membres de la famille ont eu une maladie oculaire réagissent plus rapidement et veulent en savoir plus sur les dernières recherches ainsi que sur les mesures préventives à suivre pour réduire le risque d'avoir cette maladie.

Au bout du compte, pour convaincre vos patients, vous devez suivre un processus en trois étapes. Premièrement, posez des questions qui permettent de repérer les problèmes oculaires ou de vision dont ils devraient être au

performance and fertility (i.e., ability of female rats to become pregnant). However, these doses were highly toxic and had significant toxic effects on the pregnancies, and the survival and development of the offspring. Maternal toxicity, possible occurrence of abnormalities and growth retardation started at 10 times the Alrex® clinical dose.

Neurologic

Disturbances and suppression of the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal (HPA) axis can occur with systemic exposure to corticosteroids. However, given the very low systemic exposure to loteprednol etabonate when using Alrex® as directed, these possible effects are not likely.

Endocrine and Metabolism

Glucocorticoids, mostly when systemic exposure occurs, decrease the hypoglycemic activity of insulin and oral hypoglycemics, so that a change in dose of the antidiabetic drugs may be necessitated. In high doses, glucocorticoids also decrease the response to somatotropin. The usual doses of mineralocorticoids and large doses of some glucocorticoids cause hypokalemia and may exaggerate the hypokalemic effects of thiazides and high-ceiling diuretics. In combination with amphotericin-B, they also may cause hypokalemia. Glucocorticoids appear to enhance the ulcerogenic effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. They decrease the plasma levels of salicylates, and salicylism may occur on discontinuing steroids. Glucocorticoids may increase or decrease the effects of prothrombopenic anticoagulants. Estrogens, phenobarbital, phenytoin and rifampin increase the metabolic clearance of adrenal steroids and hence necessitate dose adjustments.

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Immune

Cortisol and the synthetic analogs of cortisol have the capacity to prevent or suppress the development of the local heat, redness, swelling, and tenderness by which inflammation is recognized. At the microscopic level, they inhibit not only the early phenomena of the inflammatory process (edema, fibrin deposition, capillary dilation, migration of leukocytes into the inflamed area, and phagocytic activity) but also the later manifestations, such as capillary proliferation, fibroblast proliferation, deposition of collagen, and, still later, cicatrization.

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Possibly or probably related adverse events from two Phase III studies are listed below:

	Alrex® 0.2% N = 133	Placebo N = 135
SPECIAL SENSES (EYE DISORDERS)		
Intraocular Pressure		
- elevation of 6 to 9mm Hg*	2% to 12%*	0% to 6%*
- elevation of ≥10mm Hg	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
Chemosis	6 (5%)	7 (5%)
Vision, Abnormal or Blurred	4 (3%)	5 (4%)
Burning/Stinging, on instillation	3 (2%)	6 (4%)
Itching Eye	3 (2%)	3 (2%)
Dry Eye	2 (2%)	4 (3%)
Burning/Stinging, not on instillation	2 (2%)	2 (1%)
Epiphora	1 (1%)	9 (7%)
Discharge	1 (1%)	3 (2%)
Foreign Body Sensation	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
Discomfort Eye	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Injection	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Eye Pain	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Sticky Eye	0 (0%)	7 (5%)
Erythema Eyelids	0 (0%)	2 (1%)
Eye Disorder	0 (0%)	2 (1%)
BODY AS A WHOLE		
Face Edema (Head)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Allergic Reaction	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM		
Twitching	0 (0%)	1 (1%)

* for IOP increase of 6 to 9 mm Hg, please see below

One patient in the Alrex® group and one patient in the placebo group experienced increases in IOP of ≥10 mm Hg. Among these, one in each group had an IOP increase of ≥15 mm Hg, reaching IOP values over 30 mm Hg. In both studies, there were more patients with IOP increases of 6 to 9 mm Hg in the Alrex® group than in the placebo group (see table below). In study A, among the patients with IOP increases of 6 to 9 mm Hg, four reached an IOP value of 22 to 23 mm Hg, and one patient reached 29 mm Hg and was discontinued (clinically significant increase in IOP). All these five patients were from the Alrex® groups.

Incidence of IOP increases of 6 to 9 mm Hg from baseline
(number of patients and percentages)

	Day 7	Duration of treatment Day 14	Day 28
Alrex®			
Study-A	6 (9%)	6 (9%)	8 (12%)
Study-B	3 (5%)	1 (2%)	4 (6%)
Placebo			
Study-A	0 (0%)	4 (6%)	1 (2%)
Study-B	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Due to the sample size for each arm of the two phase III studies in SAC, all events captured are greater than 1% of n.

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT OF OVERDOSAGE

For management of suspected accidental oral ingestion or drug overdose, consult your regional poison control centre. No cases of overdose have been reported. Full Product Monograph available for health professionals at: <http://www.bausch.ca>

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courant. Deuxièmement, grâce à votre opinion d’experts, déterminez ceux qu’ils devraient régler. De manière claire et concise, vous devriez leur faire comprendre pourquoi il s’agit d’un besoin auquel ils devraient faire face. Troisièmement, dites-leur quelles solutions satisferont ces besoins. Donnez des explications de manière à ce qu’ils comprennent les avantages de vos solutions. Mentionner les verres à foyer progressif comme solution aux besoins visuels d’une personne n’est pas aussi bon que de faire valoir l’avantage de recouvrer leur focalisation naturelle de manière à pouvoir voir de près et de loin ainsi qu’entre les deux.

N’oubliez pas que les patients n’achètent pas vos produits mais bien le produit de vos produits. Ils achètent une vision améliorée pour la conduite de nuit et non une couche antireflets. Ils achètent une vision plus confortable sous bonne clarté et non des verres polarisés. Ne présentez pas de produits sans présenter les avantages qu’ils apportent.

Même si plusieurs solutions peuvent répondre aux besoins des patients, il est important que vous décidiez laquelle recommander en fonction de leurs antécédents particuliers et de l’ensemble des résultats souhaités. Donner beaucoup de choix ne fait que désorienter vos patients et finit par réduire les chances qu’ils suivent vos recommandations. Puisqu’ils vous consultent pour obtenir vos recommandations d’experts, faites-les de manière claire, concise et avec confiance.

Si vous désirez aider vos patients et croyez que vos services et produits peuvent satisfaire leurs besoins, vous ne devriez pas hésiter à recommander vivement des solutions. Ne vous fiez pas uniquement à la plainte principale pour donner des conseils mais creusez pour découvrir toutes les solutions et offrir à vos patients le meilleur résultat visuel qui soit.