

# EUREQUO pilot project is an important step in the development of a high quality outcomes database for cataract and refractive surgery

THE EUREQUO project aims to support improved treatment and standards of care for cataract and refractive surgery through the development of a Europe-wide network of National Registries reporting clinical outcomes of cataract and refractive surgery.

EUREQUO, which is co-funded by the European Union and the ESCRS, aims to make a significant impact on the exchange of best practice between practitioners in relation to patient safety in this field and national ophthalmology societies of the participating countries will have an active role in the implementation of the project at national level.

The project is a three-year programme, made up of an assessment phase in year one (2008), a pilot phase in year two (2009-2010), and roll-out phase in year three (2010-2011).

The pilot phase has already begun and one of the participating doctors is Dr Alberto Villarrubia Cuadrado of the Instituto de Oftalmología La Arruzafa,

Córdoba, Spain.

“It is very important to report the results of your activities in any profession,” said Dr Villarrubia. “The EUREQUO project is important for ophthalmologists as it will lead to higher standards of treatment and care for our patients,” he said.

Dr Villarrubia’s clinic is one of the clinics taking part in the pilot phase of the project. “The database will need to be fine-tuned and it is important that we can test the system before it is fully implemented,” he said. “What we are doing now is adding the data from patients in our clinic into the database and we can see what are the strengths and weaknesses of the system. It is also important for us to talk to the database



“In ophthalmology, we deal a lot in numbers and EUREQUO is a great tool which helps us report our statistics accurately and consistently”

**Dr Alberto Villarrubia Cuadrado**

developers so they can use our feedback to improve the database and resolve any problems that become apparent,” he said.

Dr Villarrubia said that the EUREQUO is important for his clinic because it will help him and his colleagues to compare their data with colleagues in other countries taking part in the project.

“If the database shows that our outcomes are not as satisfactory as

those in other centres, we can then look at ways of making improvements in our procedures,” he said. “We can also compare our own outcomes every year which will help us to see if we are making good progress in providing our patients with the highest standard of care.”

Ophthalmologists in clinics taking part in the pilot project may have different views on how best to report their outcomes and to add them to the database and Dr Villarrubia said they have already made some suggestions as to how some of the fields on the database can be improved.

“This is important for us as it will help us to fine-tune the way we report the data,” he said. “In ophthalmology, we deal a lot in numbers and EUREQUO is a great tool which helps us report our statistics accurately and consistently.”

[alvillarrubia@yahoo.com](mailto:alvillarrubia@yahoo.com)



## The European Registry of Quality Outcomes in Cataract and Refractive Surgery

**Do not miss this opportunity to become part of the future. If auditing results and registering performance is not mandatory in your practice and your country it soon will be!**

**Take this opportunity to learn how to prepare for it and come and see the benefits to be gained by you.**

**14<sup>th</sup> ESCRS Winter Meeting  
Corinthia Hotel,  
Budapest, Hungary**

**Free Paper Sessions**

**Friday 12 February, 2010**

**M. Lundström *SWEDEN***

**BENCHMARKING AND CLINICAL IMPROVEMENT  
USING EUREQUO OUTPUT DATA**

**Saturday 13 February, 2010**

**M. Lundström *SWEDEN*, L. Brocato *IRELAND***

**PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE EUREQUO PROJECT**

This project, jointly funded by the European Union and the ESCRS aspires to register every cataract and refractive procedure performed in the 16 participating countries.

EUREQUO aims to build up a network to facilitate the exchange of best practices, by making comprehensive data available for comparison of visual outcomes.

By demonstrating the results of your surgery you can market your business, win contracts and provide truly informed consent. From university departments to solo practitioners the benefits are there so come and see what is available to you!

**See [www.eurequo.org](http://www.eurequo.org) for more information**