

Ophthalmology Times

All the Clinical News in Sight

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Contaminated surgical instruments are primary clue to TASS outbreaks



By Lynda Charters

Reviewed by Nick Mamalis, MD

Boston—Inadequate cleansing of instruments and leftover enzyme and detergent residue are the primary culprits in outbreaks of toxic anterior segment syndrome (TASS), said **Nick Mamalis, MD**, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS).

He reviewed the results of a study that identified these and other less common factors in such outbreaks. He also listed the steps surgeons must take to eliminate this syndrome altogether, as well as the symptoms and presentation common with TASS.

"TASS is a constellation of symptoms that are often seen within 12 to 48 hours after cataract or any anterior segment surgery," said Dr. Mamalis, professor of ophthalmology, John A. Moran

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ASCRS survey

Surgeons embrace new technology

Cataract surgery volume, IOL use see steady growth

By Cheryl Guttman Krader

Reviewed by David V. Leaming, MD

Boston—Results from the 25th annual American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) Member Practice Style Survey show there is sustained growth in cataract surgery and use of specialty IOLs, said **David V. Leaming, MD**, at the society's 2010 annual meeting.

"The estimated volume of cataract surgery has continued to climb steadily during a time when the volume of laser vision correction procedures is falling, and use of presbyopic and toric IOLs has increased despite the difficult financial times," said Dr. Leaming, a private practitioner in Palm Springs, CA.

The survey is supported by industry and conducted by Dr. Leaming in collaboration with **Richard J. Duffey, MD**. The 2009 survey represents the first year since the project was launched for which the questionnaires were sent out electronically. A total of 3,778 survey invitations were sent to ASCRS members by e-mail; 518 surveys were returned for a responder rate of 14%, which is similar to that of previous paper surveys.

Data on cataract surgery volume showed an increase of 2% from 2008, with an estimated total of 3.21 million procedures performed by ASCRS members. Refractive surgery survey data showed decreases of 31% in LASIK volume, and a 19% reduction in PRK volume comparing 2008 and 2009.

In 2009, use of presbyopic IOLs was up 24% from the previous year. Overall, presbyopic IOLs represented 13% of total IOL volume since 2008, with multifocal IOLs accounting for two-thirds of the implants and the rest being an accommodating IOL.

See **ASCRS survey** on page 40

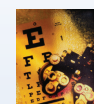
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By Peter J. McDonnell, MD

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Draw patients in by selling through the power of visual imagery.

By Arthur De Gennaro

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