The TOS Study – can we improve the ophthalmological assessment of medical patients by Foundation Year doctors?

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Background

Ophthalmoscope is a basic piece of equipment required for complete neurological assessment

- Fundoscopy is a vital skill to help making life-saving decisions
- 86% of consultant physicians agreed that ‘the competent use of an ophthalmoscope is an essential skill by the time of graduation from medical school’
- Audit of Foundation doctors at SWBH Trust in 2009 revealed that 88% of them had no training since graduation
- Interventions: increased kit, increased teaching, papilloedema guidelines, grand rounds, WMids RCP newsletter, change in 2010 FY curriculum
- Audit repeated in 2011

Methods

- Short questionnaire handed out at F1 and F2 teaching
- Also emailed to all F1s and F2s
- Initial audit in February 2009 (response rate 62.5%)
- Re-audit in February 2011 (response rate 58.5%)

Results

- Have you received training on fundoscopy since graduation?
- On average how many times have you used an ophthalmoscope in the past 6 months?
- How confident you are at...

Conclusions

- Junior doctors have reduced confidence in their ability to use an ophthalmoscope and diagnose changes on fundoscopy
- Doctors often have difficulty finding an ophthalmoscope which stops many performing ophthalmoscopy on patients that need it
- Junior doctors feel that they would benefit from extra training

Ideas for the future

- Improve on teaching of fundoscopy e.g. by using equipment producing real time video images
- Summative assessment of fundoscopy skills in year 5
- Should all trainees be expected to have an ophthalmoscope?