

Starting a Success Story with SurgiCube®

Dr. Kasper de Roon Hertoge founded the Oogartsenpraktijk Delfland (Ophthalmology Practice Delfland) in Delft, the Netherlands, in 2011. He opted to install a SurgiCube® in the new practice for optimal safety and sterility, as well as economy. The practice team now comprises of four specialist consultants and several specialist assistants. Dr. de Roon Hertoge explains how SurgiCube® continues to meet the needs of this small, independent practice.

“When we started the practice in mid-2011, we needed facilities to perform surgery and investigated building a complete operating theater. However, the costs for this were not suitable for our budget at the time,” he explained. “Then we heard about the SurgiCube® and looked into its capabilities and how it worked by visiting practices already using it. In 2011, it was still a comparatively new concept; there were relatively few in the Netherlands using the system, but it soon became apparent that this would be the best option for our new practice.”

Safe and Sterile

With a well-equipped out-patient center, the Oogartsenpraktijk Delfland is a peripheral, independent clinic that carries out a wide range of high quality medical ophthalmology, including the treatment of cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration and ocular changes in diabetes, as well as eyelid surgery, orthoptics and pediatric ophthalmology. Dr. de Roon Hertoge was particularly impressed by the level of sterility achievable with the SurgiCube®.

“We chose the system on the basis of its sterility and quality. The safety of the SurgiCube® has been proven. This is particularly important in working with the privileged sites of the eye in microsurgery. The safety advantage offered by the SurgiCube® is enormous, if it is used correctly,” he remarked.

Convenient

Opting for a three meter wide SurgiCube® has enabled the Oogartsenpraktijk Delfland to perform surgery in very safe way without requiring a lot of technical changes.

“Simply installed within the practice with no problems, the SurgiCube® works exactly as I had imagined,” said Dr. de Roon Hertoge. “It is very easy to use. The SurgiCube® is always ready for use and does not require many staff for planning purposes, during use, or for maintenance. One of the great advantages of this is that I can carry out surgery whenever I want to. No extravagant planning is required in preparation and use. In addition, the unit can be relocated anywhere.”

“The size of our SurgiCube® is more than sufficient for regular eye surgeries, eyelid surgeries and injections. We have a small operation room with the SurgiCube® in the center. Sterilization is carried out in the room adjacent to the SurgiCube®. It is a very compact arrangement that is very efficient. For the whole day, we work with just four people. The SurgiCube® means that you don't need a lot of people for good surgery!” he continued. “Prior to setting up the practice, I have worked in hospitals with a conventional operating theatre that possibly offer more surrounding space, but as a surgeon, you are ultimately only focused on the patient's eye.”

Training and Maintenance

The Oogartsenpraktijk Delfland collaborates closely with the Ophthalmology Department of the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam and has also used the system for teaching purposes.

“We have trained several young ophthalmologists and ophthalmology assistants with the SurgiCube®,” said Dr. de Roon Hertoge. “This was very effective, although it is, of course, possible to have a little more room to spread out in a big operation theater.”

With maintenance of the SurgiCube® carried out annually by the company, the staff at the Oogartsenpraktijk Delfland does not have to factor this task within their own valuable time.

Positive Contribution

The Oogartsenpraktijk Delfland has developed a good reputation among patients and healthcare professionals. Dr. de Roon Hertoge feels that the SurgiCube® has contributed to the provision of high quality medical ophthalmology and efficiency that the practice delivers.

“We have had a very positive experience with the system,” said Dr. de Roon Hertoge. “I am only surprised that it isn’t already more widely used in the Netherlands.”

Quote:

“The SurgiCube® means that you don’t need a lot of people for good surgery!”

Dr. Kasper de Roon Hertoge. Ophthalmology Practice Delfland, the Netherlands.

Dr. Kasper de Roon Hertoge

Dr. Kasper de Roon Hertoge studied Medicine at the Erasmus University, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and completed his training in Ophthalmology at the Ophthalmology Department of the Erasmus University Medical Center. In 2011, he founded the Oogartsenpraktijk Delfland (Ophthalmology Practice Delfland), a highly successful independent treatment practice in Delft, the Netherlands.

Publications:

1) Endoscopic-assisted reconstructive surgery of the lacrimal duct. Poublon RM, de Roon Hertoge K. *Clin Plast Surg.* 2009 Jul;36(3):399-405.