

Contributing to an Efficient Eye Care Network

The Oogzorgnetwerk (Holland Eye Care Network) is an initiative organized by Rotterdam Eye Hospital in Rotterdam in the Netherlands. It connects eye hospitals and ophthalmic expertise in the Netherlands within regional- and national eye care networks. Franciscus Gasthuis & Vlietland is affiliated with the Oogzorgnetwerk for the Rotterdam area and comprises two hospitals and several outpatient clinics in Rotterdam and surrounding towns. In 2010, the Franciscus Gasthuis acquired a SurgiCube®, which contributes to better efficiency in providing high quality out patient eye care.

The Oogzorgnetwerk helps guarantee effective use of the Ophthalmology expertise at the Franciscus Gasthuis and Rotterdam Eye Hospital. The Manager of the Ophthalmology Department has the role of ensuring that staff competence and knowledge and experience are used in the right way at the Ophthalmology Department of the Franciscus Gasthuis. With a large out patient department, the Franciscus Gasthuis carries out around 1,100 cataract surgeries per year. Some other surgical Ophthalmological procedures, such as strabismus surgery, are also performed in the central operation theatre of the Franciscus Gasthuis, while retinal detachment and corneal transplants patients are referred to the Rotterdam Eye Hospital. This structure enables best use of the expertise available in each medical center.

Improving Efficiency

In 2009, the Franciscus Gasthuis reviewed how they could improve the efficiency of the cataract procedures performed even further. Nurses from the out patient department were specially trained to have an important role in surgical procedures, as well as pre- and post-operative care. In addition, the Ophthalmology Department looked into acquiring a SurgiCube® as an additional resource to reduce demands on the operating room and bring extra flexibility in planning.

Contributing to Total Care

In 2010, the first surgical procedures were carried out in the Franciscus Gasthuis' new SurgiCube®. With the aim of providing total care for ophthalmology patients from the moment they come into the clinic to the moment that they leave, the SurgiCube® enables the Ophthalmology Team to carry out safe surgery within a total care environment and brings them more convenience and flexibility. Along with training more staff in surgical procedures, the SurgiCube® has contributed to reducing costs. With the SurgiCube®, the main hospital operating room is freed for other procedures.

The Ophthalmology Team is happy with their choice of the larger SurgiCube® and is confident in the service that they receive. SurgiCube®'s technical services provide a regular check and system service, replacing filters etc. They test everything and always provide the Ophthalmology Team with a report that makes clear what they did during the service, which is very important to the Team.

Wider Opportunities

Colleagues from other surgical disciplines outside eye care have taken a keen interest in the SurgiCube®. The Ophthalmology Team has received enquiries about the SurgiCube® from General Surgery, the Ear, Nose and Throat- and Plastic Surgery Departments. At the moment, only the Ophthalmology Team uses the SurgiCube®, but it would be suitable for some procedures for other departments.

Daily Practice

The SurgiCube® has become part of normal daily Ophthalmology practice at the Franciscus Gasthuis.

Quote

“The SurgiCube® enables us to carry out safe surgery within a total care environment and brings us more convenience and flexibility.”