



Endophthalmitis Post Cataract Surgery Study
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
In Collaboration with the National Eye Institute



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Dear Colleague,

We are conducting a study to ascertain the rate of endophthalmitis following cataract surgery and to identify risk factors for its occurrence. The study, called Endophthalmitis Post Cataract Surgery (EPCS) Study, is being conducted by investigators from the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins. The EPCS Study is funded by the National Eye Institute and has received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), and the Johns Hopkins University Joint Commission on Clinical Investigation. The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) also support this project.

In the EPCS Study, we are collecting information both on patients who developed endophthalmitis (i.e. cases) as well as patients who did not (i.e. controls). Specifically, we are interested in obtaining information on such things as cataract wound size and location, perioperative antibiotic use and information about the patient such as presence of systemic disease (e.g. diabetes). We wish to obtain this information on patients who developed endophthalmitis within 6 weeks of cataract surgery in 2003 and 2004, and on other cataract surgery patients who had surgery during that time period and did not develop endophthalmitis. We have randomly selected cataract surgeries from your practice.

We have two requests:

1. The enclosed questionnaires indicate the Medicare ID number and date of claim(s) for the subjects selected from your practice. Please pull the patients' charts, answer the items on the questionnaires, and then fax them to 888-681-0979.
2. Please send us the patients' medical records, limited to the visit at which the decision for cataract surgery was made, and the perioperative records up until 3 months postoperatively. If at all possible, please also include the operative note and orders. You can either fax the information or send it to us by mail. If you would like us to send you a pre-paid envelope, please notify me at the telephone number or email address listed above.

In order to comply with patient privacy and HIPAA regulations we have put together a detailed plan which has been approved by the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions' IRB. This approval extends to your participation in the study. You are not required to apply for individual IRB approval or to request permission from your patients before providing us with the requested information. If you would like to seek additional assurances for your patients you may block out the patient name on copies of the chart forms that you send to us.

We very much appreciate your participation in this study. Indeed, such research can only be completed with your help. We will keep a database of every physician who has provided data and their email address, and we will email them a copy of the results when we have finished.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention and for your valued participation in this important research project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number or email address listed above.

Sincerely,

Emily W. Gower, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
The Endophthalmitis Post Cataract Surgery Study