

Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: To determine the utilisation rate of design specific eye protection by surgeons and to assess the risk of conjunctival contamination with blood splashes during surgery.

DESIGN: Cross sectional, observational study. **SETTING:** The theatre suite of Kenyatta

National Hospital, Nairobi **SUBJECTS:** Surgeons from all specialties operating in the theatre

suite. **RESULTS:** The minority of surgeons, 5.2% utilised protective eye goggles compared to 3.5% of assistants. Prescription eye spectacles were the most common form of eye protection at

41.9 and 20.9% respectively for surgeons and their assistants. The contamination rate for

provided protective eye wear was 53.1% with the average number of droplets being 2.48 per

procedure for the principal surgeon. The duration of surgery and the use of power tools

influenced the contamination rate. **CONCLUSIONS:** The utilisation rate of design specific

protective eye wear is low and with a significant risk of conjunctival contamination, changes in attitudes and practices are needed to increase utilisation