



Optimising Outcomes: A PRESERFLO[®] User Group Meeting

28th March 2023

Meeting review: A view from the audience



PRESERFLO[®] User Group Meetings bring together PRESERFLO[®] users from around the UK to share best practice and discuss questions that may arise in clinical use. The first meeting was held in September 2021 and since then, five highly interactive meetings have been held to support specialists from different Trusts to share their experiences and knowledge.

The latest meeting, on 28th March 2023, was chaired by Leon Au (Manchester Royal Eye Hospital) and featured talks from experienced surgeons Mohammed Abu-Bakra (King's College Hospital, London), and Imran Masood (Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust). The virtual meeting, attended by more than 50 surgeons, focused on optimising pre-, peri- and post-operative procedures to attain the best possible outcomes for patients. Key topics that were discussed by the panel included the importance of considering patient characteristics and risk factors when planning procedures, the prevention and management of complications, including hypotony and bleb-related complications, and the role of stenting.

We caught up with one of the attendees, **Pouya Alaghband** (York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), to find out what he thought of the meeting...

What aspect of the meeting did you find the most interesting?

It was very interesting to exchange new ideas with different surgeons from various parts of the country. One pointer I found useful was that an intraocular pressure of 10 [mm Hg] or below on Day 1 after the surgery is a good indicator of a successful outcome.

Were there any specific 'tips and tricks' from the speakers and other audience members that you think you will take forward to your own surgeries?

I liked the idea of using a suture on the mitomycin C sponges to stop them from being lost. Ensuring complete haemostasis at the beginning of the operation is important. Other interesting ideas included tacking down the distal end of the tube with a nylon suture, as well as using a very small amount of viscoelastic to reform AC in the event of hypotony. One of the delegates commented that you could use expansile gases such as [20%] SF₆ [sulphur hexafluoride] to minimise the risk of early hypotony [by reducing the ability of aqueous to flow through and around the tube], which I found very interesting as well. I will absolutely try these approaches in my own surgical practice.

What would you say are the benefits for surgeons of joining a meeting like this one, particularly for those who are perhaps less experienced with PRESERFLO[®]?

PRESERFLO[®] is a relatively new approach compared with more conventional surgeries such as trabeculectomy or tube surgery. Providing an opportunity to share experiences among surgeons can help enhance everybody's confidence in handling the PRESERFLO[®] procedure itself and any complications that might arise as a result – it's a forum to learn from other surgeons and improve patient outcomes collectively.

Was this the first PRESERFLO[®] User Group Meeting you attended? How did they differ?

It was the second meeting I've attended – I went to my first one around a year ago. The previous meeting covered much earlier experience with PRESERFLO[®], whereas this meeting covered the more long-term data that reinforce the early experiences we had.

What would you like to see in future meetings?

Surgical videos are always great – I'd like to see more videos of complications, interesting and complex cases, and as much interactivity as possible within the constraints of a large online meeting! It's probably best to have a variety of panel members, new faces and a range of experiences – perhaps selected speakers from other countries, although generally speaking the UK is at the front of the pack in terms of performing ophthalmic surgery. If possible, there could be value in a hybrid format, offering people the chance for face-to-face interaction.

Overall, I think these meetings present a great opportunity for us as surgeons, both to learn and build our confidence in new procedures, and to collectively improve patient outcomes by sharing our experiences. I'd highly recommend them.

We'd like to thank our Chair, speakers and everyone who attended the meeting for their time and insights. If you missed out on March's PRESERFLO[®] User Group meeting, look out for the on demand videos which will be available at www.seesanten.com.

PRESERFLO[®] MicroShunt Instructions for use can be downloaded below.

For UK: <https://www.santen.uk/preserfloinstructionsforuse-UK>

For Ireland: <https://www.santen.ie/preserfloinstructionsforuse-IE>

Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information for UK can be found at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. Adverse events should also be reported to Santen UK Limited at medinfo@santen.co.uk or telephone: 0345 075 4863. Reporting forms and information for Ireland can be found at www.hpra.ie and adverse events should be reported to telephone: +353 1 695 0008.