Letters to the Editor

Strabology in the 21st century

La estrabología en el siglo XXI

Dear Editor:

I have read with interest the editorial signed by Dr. C. Laria Ochaita in the December 2014 issue # 12, vol. 89 of Archivos de la Sociedad Española de Oftalmología under the title “Strabismus and the 21st Century”. ¹

Basically, I agree with the article in that the appearance of new devices in strabology which record ocular movements and measure deviation angles with great precision, not only statically but also dynamically, are a significant evolution that will assist us to better understand the actions of muscles as well as the role played by torsion in specific oculomotor diseases, among other parameters. However, some of these devices exhibit some disadvantages like difficult utilization with children, but I am sure that with time improvements should be introduced to allow their use by all population groups.

Strabismus is a complex condition in that motor alterations account for only part of the problem. At the same level we should also consider sensory alterations without discarding other factors such as the optical, accommodative and perimuscular tissues that also undergo transformations (although to a lesser extent) as the result of strabismic deviation.

It would be naive to think that 20–30% of failures in patient treatments are due to our lack of precision in the measurement of strabismus and to the different forms of operating of each surgeon as the author seems to insinuate or, as I have heard in different fora, to the imperative use of the microscope to ensure results.

While research in the field of strabology is exclusively limited to improving our knowledge of ocular mechanics and even though we reach greater precision of up to 0.1° in angle measurements, we will not resolve the problem of strabismus only with surgery.

In addition to continue to focus on the motor aspect, 21st-century strabology would do well in researching the reason for sensory alterations in strabismus and the way to reeducate them before or after surgery to achieve a true reduction of the above-mentioned failure rates.

REFERENCE


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Footnote:

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