



IACLE France turns up the heat on teaching methods

Hot topics in contact lens education were on the agenda as IACLE France held a successful two-day meeting in Germany in March. FICLE Jonathan Douaud reports



The usefulness of keratometry for selecting a first-choice soft lens and how to standardize contact lens fit evaluation were among the discussion points when 21 French educators met recently in Frankfurt, Germany (20th and 21st March).

The meeting was hosted by Alcon and included a tour of the company's Dailies facility at Grosswaltstadt. The aim was to exchange ideas on some of the hot topics in teaching methods and share Alcon's vision for contact lenses in France. Among the findings were:

On soft lenses and keratometry

- Central keratometry is insufficient to predict soft contact lens alignment, although we still we have to measure it and other parameters (corneal eccentricity, corneal diameter etc) to compare with normal values
- Corneo-scleral shape should be informative and not decisive
- Think differently from RGP fitting and consider the whole geometry of the soft lens

On soft lens fit evaluation

- Scoring systems, such as grading dynamic lens fit with the push-up test, are useful during practical sessions
- Measuring lens decentration in mm may be preferable to scoring

On other topics, there was agreement that ISO standards should be accessible to all contact lens educators and that teaching of soft multifocal lenses should focus on the spherical aberrations used to enlarge the depth of field.

Delegates described the meeting as 'engaging and rewarding' and 'an excellent initiative'. IACLE France is planning a further meeting for September 2015. Contact jonathan.douaud@alcon.com.