

Phacoemulsification training (Phaco): The program is an intense 6-week surgical skills transfer course, targeted at ophthalmologists who are able to perform small incision cataract surgery. A fair competence with tunnel, rhexis and hydrodissection is expected. Intense training for nucleus management is given.

The program is supported by didactic lectures, model/animal eye surgery in wet lab and structured supervised hands-on surgery. The experience and education in surgery is enhanced by observing senior consultants during surgery.

Course description of Phacoemulsification training

Name of the course	Phacoemulsification training
Nature of course	To give exposure in managing cataract by Phaco-emulsification & to orient a SICS surgeon in Phaco surgery
Applicable to whom	Well oriented in the steps of SICS
Duration	6 weeks
Total number (approximate) of cases to be done by trainee	Number of cases needed for acquiring skills (approx. 20 to 22 cases).
Admission criteria	MBBS or equivalent with Post graduate Degree in ophthalmology & experience in SICS minimum 100 cases done

Course schedule

Step 1 of the training program: Wet lab practice

Placement of Training: Wet lab

Duration: First 2 weeks

Step 2 of the training program: Assisting trainers & other surgeons

Placement of Training: OT-3

Duration: From the 1st week till the end

Step 3 of the training program: Step surgery*

Placement of Training: OT-3

Duration: On the 3rd week

Step 4 of the training program: Independent supervised surgery**

Placement of Training: OT-3

Duration: From the 4th week till the end

Week wise allocation schedule of different steps of the learning process will vary according to the performance report of the trainee.

*Starting of the 'step surgery' depends on the evaluation report of the trainers. The trainee will continue 'wet lab' and 'assisting trainers' sessions for a longer period of time delaying the start of the 'step surgery' if the trainers feel it's necessary (due to trainee's performance in the 'wet lab' and 'assisting trainers' sessions)

** Starting of the 'independent supervised surgery' also depends on the evaluation report of the trainers. The trainee will continue 'step surgery' for a longer period of time delaying the start of the 'independent supervised surgery' if the trainers feel it's necessary (due to the trainee's performance in 'step surgery')