**Presentation title:**

eyeConnect Asynchronous Telemedicine Device.

The First 50 patients – implementation and learnings.

**Abstract** (max. 300 words):

The Eye and Ear has worked with Ingeneus Pty Ltd to develop eyeConnect, an asynchronous telemedicine device. Based on a slit lamp, it is designed for use by non ophthalmically trained clinicians to support rural and remote hospitals with limited ophthalmology access, and minimise the unnecessary transfer of patients from their community.

Patients are examined using the device and a package of patient history, test results and photos is sent securely to the Eye and Ear Emergency Department (ED) for review by an experienced clinician. The clinician then telephones the initiating hospital to discuss whether the patient can be managed locally or requires transfer to the Eye and Ear in East Melbourne for specialist care.

The first eyeConnect unit was installed in the ED of an outer metropolitan hospital in June 2016 and in excess of 50 patients were assessed over a six month period. The majority of presentations were due to eye pain, with eye injury a significant contributor. Forty two per cent of patients were able to be managed locally.

The use of eyeConnect formalises the traditional phone call to the Emergency Department and anecdotally has reduced the response time to the initiating hospital.

Rollout of a further 14 units across Victoria is in progress.