



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

Treatment Strategies

Damage Control Ophthalmology (DCO) Initiative

The DCO Initiative is an effort lead by researchers at the Vision Center of Excellence (VCE) to collate essential management principles of urgent ocular trauma care to be used by deployed ophthalmologists. Currently, no such resource is available to deployed clinicians. A primary focus of the DCO Initiative is to determine the best management practices of acute mass casualties and complex ocular polytrauma that are often associated with blast-related injuries. VCE is presently gathering input from tri-service combat trauma experts as well as representatives from federal, civilian, and academic organizations. In order to collect input from leading experts, VCE hosted working groups at the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Annual Scientific Symposium (November 2015), the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) Annual Tri-Service Ocular Trauma Course (May 2016) and the Tri-Service Refractive Surgery Safety and Standards Symposium (June 2016). The outcome of this initiative will be recommendations for the clinical management of acute, complex combat eye injuries, including blast-related injuries. While the initiative was primarily designed for the military ophthalmologist, the concept has garnered the attention of the civilian ophthalmic community and the American Academy of Ophthalmology due to the translatability of these findings across ophthalmology communities.

