

Subject: optical therapeutics
Date: Thursday, 27 January 2011 5:36:02 PM

Dear Sirs

For 20 years in the UK I was allowed to treat ocular hay fever with antihistamines, yet now in Australia I am no longer allowed to sell very these basic drops.- readily available without prescription in a pharmacy, and usually being served by an unqualified assistant.

At a time when 'the big boys' not only in optometry, but pharmacy and even grocery outlets are encroaching upon our profession, I feel it is most important that the whole profession remains unified.

GPs are allowed to carry out dental extractions but few do, they are allowed to use their own common sense and decide what is within their scope.

I fit hard contact lenses and artificial eyes, I have certificates in this type of speciality but would still insist that is the right of all optometrists to carry out these fittings without further certification.

I agree that all new optometrists should be therapeutically trained, and that the older optometrists, like myself, are allowed to leave the profession as time goes by thus allowing the profession to grow constantly.

Ophthalmologists have their specialities and pass patients to one another without the patient feeling upset, they understand and accept that all ophthalmologists cannot possibly be fully skilled at all operating procedures.

Please do not divide the profession, but by all means encourage further training.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Johnston