Key messages: Complicated cataract surgery

**Initial consultation**
- Identify patients in whom cataract surgery will be complicated or difficult; this avoids unwelcome surprises in the operating theatre.
- Manage patients’ expectations. Explain what to expect after surgery (in terms of the visual outcome and the potential need for further treatment) and obtain informed consent.

**Be prepared**
- Anticipate potential difficulties.
- Check that all equipment, instruments and consumables are sterilised and available.
- Brief the surgical team thoroughly.

**After surgery**
The success or failure of the operation may depend on good postoperative care.
- Ensure that inflammation is under control.
- Explain to patients how important it is that they take their postoperative medication and come back for follow-up visits.