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ARVO Annual Meeting Abstract | June 2015

# Is trabecular surgery (Hydrus-Ivantis) really safe? Operative and post-operative complications of a single site clinical group

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Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science June 2015, Vol.56, 2684. doi:

## Abstract

**Purpose:** Trabecular surgery has been introduced to overcome the complications of traditional glaucoma surgery (trabeculectomy, shunt surgery). To evaluate clinically the number and type of complications of a new trabecular bypass in a one site clinical group of phakic patients.

**Methods:** Intraoperative complications of phakic patients undergoing consecutive trabecular stent implantation (Hydrus-Ivantis) by a single surgeon were evaluated. The patients were evaluated at 1 month, 3 months and at 1 year considering visual acuity, visual field, and gonioscopy.

**Results:** 41 caucasian patients (12 males and 29 females) with a mean age of  $67.4 \pm 8.5$  years (range: 49-84) were included in the study. All patients had a diagnosis of primary open angle glaucoma with a mean visual field MD of  $-4.4$  and a PSD of  $4.3$ . The mean cup to disk ratio was  $0.7 \pm 0.2$ . Pre-operative BCVA was 20/23, the mean medicated IOP was  $19.8 \pm 3.4$  and the mean number of medications was 1.6. At the end of surgery two patients presented a hyphema ( $>2\text{mm}$ ). In one patient, the stent was repositioned during the surgical procedure. 36 patients were followed up to 3 months and 33 up to one year. The IOP decreased to  $17.5 \pm 3.3$  at three months and to  $18 \pm 3.2$  at one year. At 3 months 19.4% and at one year 42.4% of the patients were medicated (mean number of medications: 0.4 and 0.9 respectively). During the follow up no patient had a BCVA loss  $\geq 2$  Snellen lines. Cup disk ratio and visual field MD were not statistically significant compared to baseline. In 6 patients new peripheral anterior synechiae (PAS) were observed. The occurrence of PAS did not modify the IOP nor required additional medical or surgical therapy.

**Conclusions:** The Hydrus trabecular stent allowed a significant reduction of therapy in this group of phakic patients, with 57.6% unmedicated patients up to one year. The mean number of medications decreased significantly compared to baseline (1.6 vs 0.9;  $p < 0.05$ ). Mild intraocular complications were observed. During the follow-up, some patients developed peripheral anterior synechiae which did not seem to be clinically significant.

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