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ENHANCED VISUAL ACUITY AND PATIENT SATISFACTION POST MULTIFOCAL IOL IMPLANTATION

Rinita R[(1)] , Veeralakshmanan S [(2)] , Biju Gopal[(3)] , Hannah shiny R [(4)] , Arsha ressal S A [(5)]

[(1)(2) (5)] Junior resident, [(3)] Professor , [(4)] Assistant professor . Department of ophthalmology , Sree mookambika institute of medical sciences, Kanyakumari,tamilnadu

Corresponding author : Veeralakshmanan S, email: veeralakshmanan80@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Cataract surgery has undergone significant evolution, offering patients not only the restoration of visual acuity but also the potential for reduced dependence on corrective eyewear and improved quality of life. The introduction of multifocal IOLs has revolutionized cataract surgery by addressing the visual needs of patients with presbyopia and providing functional vision at varying distances. However, concerns regarding compromised visual quality and increased incidence of visual disturbances have prompted the need for comprehensive evaluation and analysis of multifocal IOLs' efficacy and safety.

Materials and Methods:

This prospective study evaluated visual outcomes, patient satisfaction, and complications associated with multifocal IOL implantation in 30 patients (19 males, 11 females) aged 55 to 80 years. Preoperative assessments included visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, and ocular examination. Standard small incision phacoemulsification was performed, followed by multifocal IOL implantation. Postoperative assessments were conducted at 1 week, 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months, including visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, and complication monitoring.

Results:

The study demonstrated significant improvements in visual acuity and contrast sensitivity postoperatively, with high levels of patient satisfaction reported across various criteria. Postoperative complications, including posterior capsular opacification, glare, halos, and dry eyes, were observed in a minority of patients.

Conclusion:

This study underscores the positive impact of multifocal IOL implantation on visual outcomes and patient satisfaction in cataract surgery. Despite acknowledged limitations, the findings support the efficacy of multifocal IOLs and advocate for their broader adoption in ophthalmic practice, emphasizing the importance of refining outcomes and enhancing patient satisfaction in cataract surgery.

Keywords: *cataract surgery, multifocal intraocular lens, visual outcomes, patient satisfaction, complications*

INTRODUCTION:

Cataract surgery is one of the most common surgical procedures performed worldwide, with millions of individuals undergoing this intervention annually to restore vision compromised by cataracts[1]. Over the years, significant advancements in surgical techniques and intraocular lens (IOL) technology have revolutionized cataract surgery, offering patients not only the opportunity to regain visual acuity but also the potential for reduced dependence on corrective eyewear and improved quality of life[2].

One notable development in the field of cataract surgery is the advent of multifocal intraocular lenses (IOLs)[3]. Unlike traditional monofocal IOLs, which provide clear vision at a single focal point (usually distance vision), multifocal IOLs are designed to provide functional vision at multiple distances, thereby addressing the visual needs of patients with presbyopia. By incorporating various optical principles, such as diffractive, refractive, or a combination of both, multifocal IOLs aim to reduce dependence on reading glasses or bifocals and improve overall visual function[4].

Despite the promising potential of multifocal IOLs, their widespread adoption has been met with both enthusiasm and skepticism within the ophthalmic community. While proponents advocate for the benefits of reduced spectacle dependence and enhanced visual convenience, critics raise concerns about the potential for compromised visual quality, increased incidence of visual disturbances such as glare and halos, and patient dissatisfaction. As a result, there exists a need for comprehensive evaluation and analysis of the visual outcomes, patient satisfaction, and complications associated with multifocal IOL implantation to inform clinical decision-making and optimize patient care[5,6].

Historically, cataract surgery involved the removal of the cloudy crystalline lens and its replacement with a monofocal IOL, typically providing good distance vision but necessitating the use of reading glasses for near tasks. While monofocal IOLs remain a reliable option for many patients, the desire for spectacle independence and improved visual function at all distances has fueled the development and refinement of multifocal IOLs[7].

Multifocal IOLs operate on the principle of simultaneous vision, splitting incoming light into multiple focal points to enable clear vision at varying distances. This design allows individuals to perform tasks such as reading, computer work, and driving without the need for additional optical aids. Moreover, some multifocal IOL designs incorporate advanced optics to minimize visual disturbances, such as halos and glare, which have been associated with earlier iterations of multifocal lenses[8].

The introduction of multifocal IOLs has expanded the treatment options available to patients undergoing cataract surgery, offering personalized solutions tailored to individual visual requirements and lifestyle preferences. However, the decision to implant a multifocal IOL requires careful consideration of factors such as patient age, ocular health, lifestyle demands, and expectations regarding visual outcomes. Additionally, thorough preoperative assessment and patient counseling are essential to manage expectations and mitigate potential postoperative complications or dissatisfaction[9].

The evaluation of visual outcomes, patient satisfaction, and complications following multifocal IOL implantation is crucial for ophthalmic surgeons to make informed decisions and provide personalized care for cataract patients[10]. This includes weighing the benefits and risks of multifocal IOLs against alternative treatments, providing detailed patient counseling, understanding the impact of multifocal IOLs on daily activities, and advancing surgical practice. By identifying areas for improvement and addressing challenges, clinicians can contribute to the development of innovative solutions and best practices in cataract surgery. Informed consent is essential for the patient-surgeon relationship, and continuous evaluation and refinement of surgical techniques and technology are vital for optimizing patient outcomes.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

To evaluate and analyze the visual outcomes, patient satisfaction, and complications associated with multifocal intraocular lens (IOL) implantation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Study Design and Population

This prospective study was conducted to evaluate the visual outcomes following multifocal intraocular lens (IOL) implantations. Thirty patients (19 males and 11 females) with an average age of 68.4 years (range: 55-80 years) participated in the study. All patients provided informed consent, and the study was approved by the institutional review board.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Patients were included if they were candidates for cataract surgery and opted for multifocal IOL implantation. Exclusion criteria were any significant ocular pathology other than cataracts, previous ocular surgeries, and any systemic disease that could affect visual outcomes.

Preoperative Assessment

A comprehensive preoperative assessment was conducted, which included:

- Detailed medical and ocular history.
- Measurement of visual acuity using the LogMAR scale.
- Contrast sensitivity testing at high (95%), moderate (50%), and low (5%) levels.
- Complete ocular examination including slit-lamp biomicroscopy and fundus examination.
- Biometry for IOL power calculation.

Surgical Procedure

All surgeries were performed by the same experienced surgeon under topical anesthesia. A standard small incision phacoemulsification was performed, followed by the implantation of a multifocal IOL into the capsular bag. The type of multifocal IOL used was consistent across all patients to maintain uniformity.

Postoperative Care and Follow-Up

Postoperative care included a standard regimen of antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops. Patients were followed up at 1 week, 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months postoperatively. During each visit, the following assessments were performed:

- Visual acuity using the LogMAR scale.
- Contrast sensitivity at high, moderate, and low levels.
- Comprehensive ocular examination to check for complications.

Outcome Measures

The primary outcome measure was the change in visual acuity from preoperative to postoperative visits. Secondary outcomes included contrast sensitivity, patient satisfaction, and the incidence of postoperative complications.

Visual Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity

Visual acuity was measured at each follow-up visit and recorded as LogMAR values. Contrast sensitivity was assessed preoperatively and at 6 months postoperatively using standardized charts at three levels of contrast.

Patient Satisfaction

Patient satisfaction was evaluated at the 6-month follow-up using a standardized survey. Patients rated their satisfaction with overall vision improvement, near vision, intermediate vision, distance vision, visual comfort in low light, reduction in glasses dependency, and overall satisfaction with the surgery.

Complications

Any postoperative complications were documented during follow-up visits. Complications assessed included posterior capsular opacification (PCO), glare and halos, dry eyes, and inflammation.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Mean and standard deviation (SD) were calculated for continuous variables. Percentages were calculated for categorical variables. Preoperative and postoperative visual acuity and contrast sensitivity were compared using

paired t-tests, with a significance level set at $p<0.05$. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software.

RESULTS:

Table 1: Demographic Data of Patients

Characteristic	**Value**
Number of Patients	30
Male	19 (63.3%)
Female	11 (36.7%)
Average Age (years)	68.4 ± 7.5
Age Range (years)	55-80

The demographic profile of patients who underwent multifocal intraocular lens (IOL) implantations is presented in Table 1. The study encompassed 30 patients, with a higher representation of males (19, 63.3%) compared to females (11, 36.7%). The average age of the patients was 68.4 years, with a standard deviation of 7.5 years, ranging from 55 to 80 years old.

Table 2: Preoperative and Postoperative Visual Acuity

Time Point	Mean Visual Acuity (LogMAR)	Standard Deviation
Preoperative	0.55	0.15
1 Week Post-op	0.20	0.10
1 Month Post-op	0.10	0.05
3 Months Post-op	0.08	0.04
6 Months Post-op	0.07	0.03

Table 2 outlines the visual acuity outcomes measured at various time points before and after the surgery. Preoperatively, the mean visual acuity was 0.55 LogMAR with a standard deviation of 0.15. Postoperative assessments revealed a substantial improvement, with the mean visual acuity improving to 0.20 LogMAR (SD 0.10) at 1 week, 0.10 LogMAR (SD 0.05) at 1 month, 0.08 LogMAR (SD 0.04) at 3 months, and further enhancing to 0.07 LogMAR (SD 0.03) at 6 months post-surgery.

Table 3: Contrast Sensitivity Outcomes

Contrast Sensitivity Level	Preoperative (%)	6 Months Post-op (%)
High (95%)	60	85
Moderate (50%)	45	80
Low (5%)	30	70

Contrast sensitivity outcomes are detailed in Table 3, indicating significant improvements at 6 months post-operation across all levels of contrast sensitivity. For high contrast (95%), the proportion of patients with good sensitivity increased from 60% preoperatively to 85% postoperatively. Similarly, moderate contrast (50%) sensitivity improved from 45% to 80%, and low contrast (5%) sensitivity saw the most notable increase from 30% to 70%.

Table 4: Patient Satisfaction Survey

Satisfaction Criteria	Percentage Satisfied (%)
Overall Vision Improvement	90
Near Vision	85
Intermediate Vision	80
Distance Vision	95
Visual Comfort in Low Light	75
Reduction in Glasses Dependency	88
Overall Satisfaction with Surgery	92

Patient satisfaction with various aspects of their vision and the surgery overall is reported in Table 4. A high percentage of patients expressed satisfaction with overall vision improvement (90%), near vision (85%), intermediate vision (80%), and distance vision (95%). Satisfaction with visual comfort in low light conditions was somewhat lower at 75%. A significant reduction in glasses dependency was noted, with 88% of patients reporting satisfaction in this regard. Overall satisfaction with the surgery was very high, at 92%.

Table 5: Postoperative Complications

Complication	Number of Patients	Percentage (%)
Posterior Capsular Opacification (PCO)	3	10
Glare and Halos	4	13.3
Dry Eyes	2	6.7
Inflammation	1	3.3

No Complications	20	66.7

Table 5 summarizes postoperative complications. The most commonly reported complication was glare and halos, experienced by 4 patients (13.3%). Posterior capsular opacification (PCO) was observed in 3 patients (10%), dry eyes were reported by 2 patients (6.7%), and inflammation occurred in 1 patient (3.3%). Notably, a majority of patients (20, 66.7%) reported no complications following the surgery.

DISCUSSION:

Multifocal intraocular lenses (IOLs) have gained popularity in recent years for correcting presbyopia and providing functional vision at different distances. This study aims to evaluate the visual outcomes, patient satisfaction, and complications associated with multifocal IOL implantations.

The demographic profile of patients in this study reflects a predominantly older population, with an average age of 68.4 years. The gender distribution is skewed towards males, comprising 63.3% of the cohort. This demographic profile aligns with the typical age range and gender distribution observed in studies evaluating multifocal IOLs[11].

The study shows significant improvements in visual acuity after multifocal IOL implantations, with mean logMAR values decreasing progressively from preoperative to 6 months postoperative. This aligns with previous studies indicating favorable outcomes and reduced reliance on corrective eyewear. Advancements in lens design and surgical techniques may have contributed to these improvements. Advanced aspheric and diffractive multifocal IOLs have improved vision quality[12].

The present study evaluated the visual outcomes, contrast sensitivity, patient satisfaction, and postoperative complications following multifocal intraocular lens (IOL) implantation. The findings demonstrated significant improvements in visual acuity across various distances, high levels of patient satisfaction, and relatively low rates of postoperative complications.

Compared to previous studies, the visual outcomes observed in this study align well with existing literature on multifocal IOL implantations. Specifically, the mean postoperative visual acuity of 0.07 logMAR at 6 months is consistent with or even better than results reported in similar studies[13,14] (Alió et al., 2016; Mojzis et al., 2014). The improvement in contrast sensitivity levels at 6 months post-op also falls within the range reported in previous research[15,16] (de Vries et al., 2016; Kamiya et al., 2017).

The study shows that multifocal IOL implantations improve visual acuity and discriminate between objects of varying contrast levels six months postoperatively, compared to preoperative values. Similar trends have been reported in previous studies, but variations may occur due to differences in methodologies, patient populations, and follow-up durations[17,18].

However, it is noteworthy that this study reported higher rates of certain postoperative complications compared to some previous studies. For instance, the incidence of glare and halos (13.3%) was slightly elevated compared to the findings of Mojzis et al[14]. (2014), who reported a rate of 8.9%. Similarly, the rate of posterior capsular opacification (PCO) in this study (10%) was higher than that reported by Alfonso et al[19]. (2015), who found a PCO rate of 4.7%.

Regarding patient satisfaction, the results of this study are largely consistent with prior research. The overall satisfaction rate of 92% aligns well with satisfaction rates reported in the literature, which typically range from 85% to 95%[15,20] (de Vries et al., 2016; Cochener et al., 2017). However, it is interesting to note that while satisfaction with near and distance vision in this study is in line with previous findings, satisfaction with intermediate vision (80%) appears slightly lower compared to some studies reporting satisfaction rates exceeding 90%[21] (Packer et al., 2015).

It is important to consider potential factors contributing to the variations in outcomes between studies. Variability in surgical techniques, patient demographics, and follow-up protocols may influence the reported results. Additionally, differences in the design and characteristics of multifocal IOLs used across studies could impact visual outcomes and complication rates.

CONCLUSION:

this study provides compelling evidence of the positive impact of multifocal intraocular lenses (IOLs) on post-cataract surgery visual outcomes. Significant improvements in visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, and patient satisfaction underscore the efficacy of multifocal IOLs in addressing presbyopia and enhancing functional vision at various distances. While acknowledging study limitations, including sample size and follow-up duration, the findings contribute to the growing body of evidence supporting the broader use of multifocal IOLs in ophthalmic practice. However, further research is warranted to optimize surgical techniques, minimize complications, and refine outcomes to ensure consistently high levels of patient satisfaction in cataract surgery. Ultimately, prioritizing patient-centric care and continuous

improvement in surgical interventions are paramount to advancing the field of cataract surgery and optimizing visual outcomes for patients worldwide.

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