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Last Name - Mattos First Name - Armando Middle - Belfort

Service (sector) Retina and Vitreous

Nº CEP

Combined phacoemulsification, pars plana vitrectomy and posterior chamber intraocular lens insertion in one procedure for patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy

Mattos, amb.; chaudhry, n.a; flynn, h.w.; murray, t.g.; mello jr., m.

Purpose: to evaluate the outcomes and the best technique for a combined phacoemulsification (phaco), pars plana vitrectomy (ppvv) and posterior chamber intraocular lens insertion (pciol) in one procedure for patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy

Methods: we reviewed charts of 47 patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy who underwent combined phaco, ppv and pciol performed between january 1991 and march 1997 at the bascom palmer eye institute . 40 patients and 43 eyes were elected to participate in the study. Results: the follow up range was 3 to 60 months (mean 19,8 months).the age ranged from 37 to 77 years with mean of 59,2. Preoperative visual acuity improved two lines or more in 26 eyes (60,4%), remain the same in 09 (20,9%) got worse in 08 (18,6%). In 10 eyes (23,2%) visual acuity improved to the level of 20/40. The sign test showed to be statistically significant to the improvement at final visual acuity. The recurrent vitreous hemorrhage was the most frequent postoperative complication found in a 12 eyes (27,9%) and it was followed closely by transitory anterior chamber reaction in 09 eyes (20,9%). Intraoperative and postoperative complications related to phacoemulsification were rare. Iol capture was found in 02 eyes (4,6%) nd iol subluxation in 01 eye (2,3%)

Conclusions: combined phacoemulsification, pars plana vitrectomy and pciol in proliferative diabetic retinopathy is a well tolerated procedure and usually presents significant visual improvement. One single procedure, to remove the cataract and to perform vitrectomy is safe, improves visual acuity and is less aggressive for the patient, than to perform a second surgery only to remove the cataract after the vitrectomy. Better results in final visual acuity are due severity of retinopathy.