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Early angiographic and morphological macular findings following phacoemulsification with intraocular lens implantation in senile cataract

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Purpose: to describe clinical, angiographic and optical coherence tomography findings of the macular area in the early postoperative phase after phacoemulsification with intraocular lens implantation, in senile cataract . Methods: This was a prospective observation case series including 22 eyes of 18 patients who underwent uncomplicated cataract extraction by phacoemulsification under topical anesthesia. All patients were submitted to a complete ophthalmologic exam including slitlamp biomicroscopy of the macula prior to surgery. On postoperative day 3 a standard fluorescein angiography and optical coherence tomography evaluation were performed. Results: The best corrected visual acuity ranged from 20/100 to 20/20. We did not find clinical or angiographic macular leakage suggestive of cystoid macular edema although an increase in macular thickening of central fovea was detected in 18 eyes (82%) . Conclusion: Optical coherence tomography is a sensitive diagnostic test to detect macular thickening when compared to fundus biomicroscopy and fluorescein angiography. These findings suggest a subclinical inflammatory condition of central macula early in the postoperative period in cases of phacoemulsification, even in an uncomplicated procedure.