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Service (sector) Cataract N° CEP

**Comparative cost analysis between phacoemulsification and phaco-simile clear corneal 3.5 incision extracapsular cataract extraction technique** Authors: Del Rey M, Malavazzi G, Freitas LL, Nishi M

**Introduction:** Small incision extracapsular cataract extraction (ECCE) is a "low tech" procedure providing anatomic results more similar to those of phacoemulsification with probably more favourable cost profile.

**Purpose:** To compare costs, clinical outcomes, complications rates and patient satisfaction between phacoemulsification and phaco-simile extracapsular cataract extraction technique.

**Methods:** A prospective consecutive single masked randomized clinical trial, was used to compare the safety, efficacy, time, and patient satisfaction of surgery by phacoemulsification or phaco-simile ECCE technique and folded intraocular in the bag lens insertion. Patients presented bilateral nuclear II and III cataract classified by the LOCS II pre-operatively. The technique was almost the same for both procedures except that, in the phaco-simile technique, the nucleus is manually split in the bag and the fragments then removed. The same surgeon conducted all surgeries at the ophthalmic outpatient clinic of the Federal University of Sao Paulo. The surgery technique was chosen randomly for the first operated eye, and the second eye was submitted to the other technique in evaluation. Postoperative ophthalmological exams were conducted at one day, one week, four weeks, three months, six months and one year after surgery. Intraoperative and postoperative complications were monitored. Intra and postoperative costs (direct and indirect, fixed and variable, and overhead costs) were inventoried and submitted to accounting analysis. Patients were interviewed in order to investigate their satisfaction for each surgery performed and its outcomes.

**Results:** Preliminary results will be presented.

**Conclusions:** Not concluded