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Service (sector) Cataract Nº CEP

Cataract surgery training using pig eyes filled with substances of various hardness.

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Purpose: To analyze a model using pig eyes filled with hand soap, jelly candy and champingnon serving as pseudonuclei with the goal of teaching dividing techniques of phacoemulsification. Methods: Fifteen pig eyes underwent a superior escleral incision, capsulorex and lens extraction. Pseudonuclei were confectioned with three different substances: hand soap, jelly candy and champingnon. These substances were trimmed to lens size and inserted in the capsular bag through the incision, which was then sutured. These fifteen eyes were filled with each substance resulting in three groups of eyes. After these preparatory procedures, five experienced surgeons practiced pre-slice nuclear fracture technique in one eye of each group in a masked way and answered a questionnaire in order to evaluate the similarities with human lens, facility of fracture and quality of the model. Results: Sixty percent of surgeons preferred the jelly candy as the best model for simulating a human cataract. Conclusion: The cataract created by this method may be useful in teaching pre-slice technique. This new approach using jelly candy provides suitable specimens for practicing dividing techniques of phacoemulsification.