CL29 - PHAKIC INTRAOCULAR LENSES VS CLEAR LENS EXTRACTION: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Introduction: Intraocular surgical procedures can be of use in the treatment of high ametropias. Clear lens extraction (CLE) and phakic intraocular lens (pIOL) implantation are two viable options that have been under evaluation. Our main purpose is to evaluate the effectiveness, safety and predictability of RLE and pIOL as well as patient satisfaction.

Methods: Prospective study with 84 eyes of 42 patients without cataract, with a refractive error higher than 7 diopters of spherical equivalent and 55 years old or younger. Patients were divided in two groups: pIOL group with implanted iris-claw anterior chamber IOL or posterior chamber phakic IOL; RLE group which underwent phacoemulsification and in-the-bag multifocal or monofocal IOL implantation. A complete ophthalmologic examination was performed as well as specular microscopy, and visual function evaluation using VF-14 questionnaire.

Results: 21 patients (42 eyes) were included in pIOL group and 21 patients (42 eyes) were included in RLE group. We found no statistically significant differences between groups in intraocular pressure, corneal endothelial cell count or best corrected distance visual acuity (p>0.05). Both procedures had a high predictability, without significant intra and post-operative complications. Patients who underwent RLE with monofocal IOL implantation had the lowest near visual acuity (p<0.05). Patients in pIOL group showed a trend for better VF-14 scores.

Conclusions: pIOL and RLE are adequate procedures for high refractive errors, with good outcomes in terms of refractive result, predictability and high levels of patient satisfaction. The choice between both should take into account patient’s age, needs and expectations.