

Clinical and Refractive Outcomes of Toric Phakic Implantable Collamer Lens Implantation for correction of myopic astigmatism

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ABSTRACT

Background: Currently there are four general approaches to correct refractive errors: refractive corneal surgery, crystalline lens surgery and implantation of an intraocular lens in anterior or posterior chamber.

Aim: To evaluate the predictability, safety and stability of toric phakic implantable collamer lens implantation to correct moderate to high myopic astigmatism.

Methods: Sixty eyes of 40 patients underwent implantation of a toric implantable collamer lens (V4c design) in the Eye Specialty Private Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq were studied. The mean spherical refraction was -11.32 ± 3.17 diopter (D) with a range of -6.00 to -18.00 D and a mean cylinder of -2.61 ± 1.16 with range of -1.00 to -5.50 D. The outcome measures that evaluated during a 12 months follow-up period include UDVA, refractive outcomes, CDVA, vault and adverse events.

Results: At 12 months postoperatively, the mean Snellen decimal UDVA was 0.77 ± 0.23 and the mean CDVA was 0.80 ± 0.21 , with an efficacy index of 1.16. Twenty nine eyes (48.33%) showed

gain in CDVA with a safety index of 1.21. The treatment was highly predictable for spherical equivalent and astigmatic component. The mean SE dropped from -12.63 ± 3.11 D to -0.11 ± 0.20 D with 58 eyes within ± 0.50 D and 60 eyes with ± 1.00 D of the target correction. For achieved cylinder 60 eyes (100%) had ≤ 0.50 D and 51 eyes (85%) had ≤ 0.25 D with a strong positive linear correlation between achieved and expected cylinder ($r=0.94$).

Conclusion: The results of the present study support safety, efficacy, predictability of toric implantable collamer lens implantation to treat moderate to high myopic astigmatism

Abbreviation: UDVA: uncorrected distance visual acuity, CDVA: corrected distance visual acuity, SE: spherical equivalent and ACD: anterior chamber depth.

Introduction

Laser corneal refractive surgery has been used to correct wide range of refractive errors and proved to be effective and safe in most cases. Despite the use of highly optimized and customized laser treatment such as wave front guided, aspheric and topoguided ablation physical limitations of corneal thickness, curvature and tissue remodeling limit the indication for a safe corneal refractive procedure. Moreover, the optical quality of outcome may not be as good as desired especially when treat high refractive errors. When kerato refractive procedure is not appropriate approach, either phakic intraocular lens implantation or refractive lens exchange (RLE) with IOL implantation should be considered. One of the main concerns about RLE in high myopic eye is the increased risk of retinal detachment especially in younger patient and in eye with long axial length >26mm [1, 2].

RLE leads to loss of accommodation and should be avoided when natural lens is still functioning. In the absence of contraindication, PIOL implantation is the best approach in young patient with a moderate to high refractive errors and in those who have contraindication to keratorefractive procedure. Advantages of

PIOL implantation include the maintaining of the accommodation and the reversibility. The Visian Implantable Collamer Lens is a PIOL designed to be placed in the posterior chamber, just behind the iris with the haptic zone resting in the ciliary sulcus [3]. Previous studies have reported that implantation of this PIOL is a safe and effective treatment option in the refractive correction of myopia [4, 5], hyperopia [6, 7], astigmatism [8, 9] and in patient who may not be suitable candidate for corneal reshaping procedures [10, 11]. The reported complications of previous model of this ICL include the anterior sub capsular cataract [12, 15], increase intraocular pressure (IOP) [16], endothelial cell loss [17], pigment dispersion [18] and pupillary block [19, 20].

Currently, the model V4c Implantable Collamer Lens PIOL was designed with central hole of 0.36 mm to overcome the disadvantages. The purpose of the present study was to assess the clinical and refractive outcomes in patients who had toric phakic ICL implantation of the V4c model to correct moderate to high myopic astigmatism over a 12months follow-up period.

Methods

This prospective study was carried out at the Eye Specialty Private Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq and comprised 60 eyes of 40 patients with age range from 20-38 y, 22 were women, and 18 were men with a refractive sphere range of 6.00-18.00 D and a refractive cylinder of 1.00-5.50 D. Table 1 shows the preoperative patients demographic data and the size of implanted lenses. Inclusion criteria were best corrected distance visual acuity (CDVA) of 20/40 or better, stable refraction and clear central cornea. Exclusion criteria include the age <20ys, previous corneal refractive surgery, anterior chamber depth of less than 2.8mm, corneal endothelial cell density less than 2000 cell/mm², mesopic pupil larger than 7.0mm, cataract, history of glaucoma, retinal detachment, macular degeneration or retinopathy, neuro-ophthalmic diseases and a history of ocular inflammation. A written informed consent was obtained from each patient after the clarification of the nature and the possible consequences of the study.

Before surgery, patients had a full ophthalmologic examination including UDVA, CDVA, manifest and cycloplegic refractions, slit lamp evaluation, Goldman applanation tonometry, gonioscopy,

ultrasonic corneal pachymetry (Tomey SP-100) and corneal topography (Sirius), central endothelial cell count (ECC), binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy through dilated pupil and white to white distance measured by caliper. The targeted refraction in all patients was emmetropia.

The V4c Implantable Collamer Lens posterior chamber PIOL is made from Collamer, a biocompatible hydrophilic copolymer of collagen and hydroxyethyl methacrylate with an ultraviolet light filtering chromophore. This model is designed to correct myopia with or without astigmatism. It has a plate haptic design with central convex- concave optical zone and incorporates forward vault to minimize contact of the PIOL with the central anterior capsule of crystalline lens. A central hole of 0.36 mm, the KS- Aqua port, defines the new design of V4c PIOL. The hole allows more neutral flow of the aqueous humor (central flow technology) eliminating the need to perform preoperative or intra operative Nd-YAG peripheral iridectomies. The PIOL is available in 4 overall lengths (12.1mm, 12.6mm, 13.2 mm and 13.7mm) and a myopic power range -0.50 to -18.00D and cylinder range -0.50 to -6.00 D. The power of the PIOL was calculated using the PIOL power table software provided by the

manufacturer; the table used a modified vertex formula. The targeted refraction was emmetropia in all cases. The size of the PIOL was also chosen by the manufacturer based on the horizontal white-white distance measured by caliper and ACD that measured with the corneal topography.

Surgical procedures were performed by the same surgeon at Eye Specialty Private Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq. Before the surgery a dot marked at the slit lamp as reference for 0° - 180° axis of the eye then serial tropicamide and phenylephrine eye drops instillation for pupil dilatation. Five minutes before surgery, povidine iodine (5%) was applied. The surgical procedure was performed through a single plane 3.0 to 3.2 mm corneal incision centered temporally under topical anesthesia. The anterior chamber filled with sodium hyaluronate (1%), which was completely removed at the end of surgery. The PIOL was inserted with the use of an injector cartilage (Staar Surgical Co.). No preoperative or intra operative peripheral iridectomies were performed in any case. Toric ICL is manufactured to minimize rotation and required the surgeon to rotate the toric ICL no more than 22.5° from the horizontal meridian. Each toric ICL comes with guide demonstrating the amount and direction of rotation from the horizontal axis required of

the toric ICL to exactly align the toric ICL cylinder axis to the patients' required cylinder correction.

Postoperative topical therapy included tobramycin and dexamethasone (0.1%) (tobradex) eye drop 4 times for 7 days. In case of bilateral implantation, the second eye was operated on within 1 week after the 1st surgery.

Postoperative follow-up visits were scheduled at 3, and 24 hours (early postoperative); 1 week; and 1,3,6 and 12 months. The examinations included UDVA, CDVA, refractive status, slit lamp examination, tonometry, gonioscopy, subjective (Slit lamp) and objective (Topography Scheimpflug Image) vault assessment and fundoscopy. The vault between the crystalline lens and the PIOL was measured perpendicular to the lens apex or at the narrowest space between both.

The assessment of outcomes was based on preoperative versus postoperative UDVA and CDVA values (efficacy and safety respectively). The expected versus the achieved refractive outcomes postoperatively (predictability) and adverse complications. The efficacy index (ratio of postoperative UDVA to preoperative CDVA) and the safety index (ratio of postoperative to preoperative CDVA) were also calculated.

Data analysis was performed using Minitab statistical software (Version 13). Normality of data was checked by the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. Statistical differences between preoperative and postoperative refractive and visual outcomes were analyzed with Two-sample t-test. Recorded visual acuity data were converted to Log MAR values. Differences with a p value less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results

The mean age of patients at the time of surgery was 26.07 ± 5.32 y. At 12 months post-surgery, the mean spherical error was -0.08 ± 0.17 D and the mean cylinder value was -0.11 ± 0.18 D.

Efficacy: The mean postoperative Log MAR UDVA was (0.15 ± 0.09 , 0.14 ± 0.04 & 0.13 ± 0.14) 1 month, 6 months and 12 months respectively. There was a statistically significant difference between the preoperative CDVA and 12 months postoperative Log MAR UDVA ($P= 0.007$). The UDVA was found to be 0.3 (20/40) or better in all eyes at all times after surgery. It was 0.00 (20/20) in 29 eyes (48.33%) at 12 months postoperatively. The efficacy index at 12 months was 1.16 (Table 2).

Predictability: Figure 1 shows the deviation of the achieved from the expected spherical equivalent (SE) 12 months postoperatively, the achieved SE was close to emmetropia (-0.11 ± 0.20 D) with 58 eyes (96.66%) within ± 0.50 D and 60 eyes (100%) within ± 1.00 D of target correction. High correlation between attempted and achieved SE ($r=0.94$, p value 0.000) was obtained. No eye (0.0%) preoperatively had refractive cylinder of 0.50 D, whereas 12 months post operatively, 60 eyes (100%) had ≤ 0.50 D and 51 eyes (85%) ≤ 0.25 D with a strong linear correlation between achieved and expected cylinder ($r=0.94$ and p value 0.000).

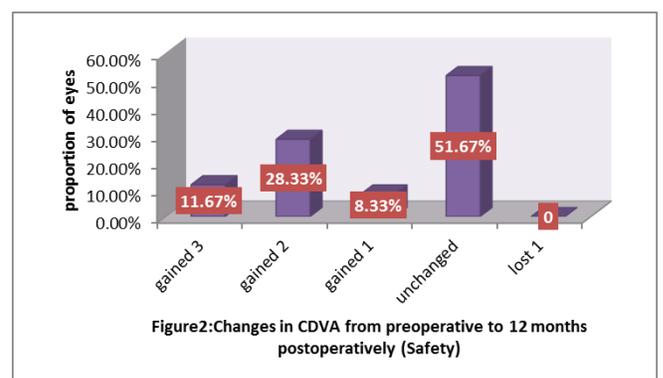
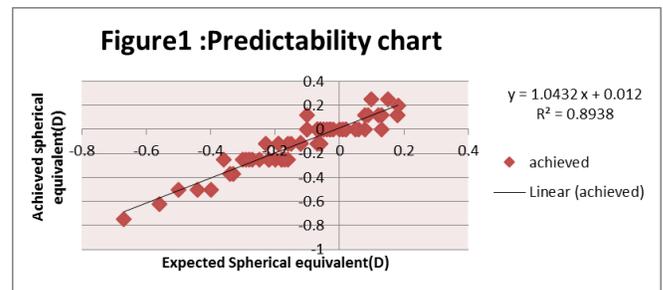


Table 1

Patients preoperative demographic data and PIOL characteristics

Parameter	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Age (year)	26.07	5.32	20	38
Refractive Sphere(D)	-11.32	3.17	-6.00	-18.00
Refractive cylinder (D)	-2.61	1.16	-1.00	-5.50
Spherical equivalent(D)	-12.63	3.11	-7.00	-19.25
UDVA (decimal)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.05
BDVA (decimal)	0.66	0.20	0.5	1
Pachymetry(μm)	534.80	42.44	460	650
ECD(cell/ mm^2)	2570	390	2000	3700
ACD(mm)	3.23	0.35	2.80	4.24
White to white(mm)	11.22	0.37	10.50	12.00
IOP (mmHg)	13.60	1.70	10.00	17.00
PIOL size(mm)	12.47	0.39	12.00	13.2

ACD: anterior chamber depth; UDVA: uncorrected distance visual acuity; CDVA: corrected distance visual acuity; ECD: endothelial cell density; IOP: intraocular pressure and PIOL: phakic Intra ocular lens
SD: standard deviation

Table 2

Pre op CDVA versus postop UDVA

Parameter	Mean	SD	P value	Efficacy index
Pre op. CDVA(decimal)	0.66	0.20	0.007	1.16
Post op. UDVA(decimal)	0.77	0.23		

Table 3

Preop versus postop CDVA

Parameter	Mean	SD	P value	Safety index
Pre op. CDVA (decimal)	0.66	0.20	0.000	1.21
Postop CDVA(decimal)	0.80	0.21		

Safety: The mean postoperative Log MAR CDVA was (0.14 ± 0.09 , 0.13 ± 0.15 , 0.11 ± 0.12) at 1 month, 6 months and 12 months respectively. All eyes achieved CDVA of 0.3 (20/40) or better after PIOL implantation, with 30 eyes (50%) having a CDVA of 0.0 (20/20) or better at 12 months of follow-up. There was a significant improvement in Log MAR CDVA after surgery ($P = 0.000$), no eye loss 1 or more lines, thirty one eyes (51.67%) did not change from preoperatively, five eyes (8.33%) gained 1 line, seventeen eyes (28.33%) gained 2 lines and 7 eyes (11.67%) gain 3 lines (Figure 2). The safety index was estimated to be 1.21 (Table 3) at 12 months follow up.

Stability: The mean preoperative SE was -12.63 ± 3.11 D. The mean postoperative SE was -0.13 ± 0.20 D at 1 month, -0.12 ± 0.18 D at 6 months and -0.11 ± 0.20 D at 12 months. The decrease in mean SE from preoperatively to 12 months postoperatively was statistically significant ($P = 0.000$).

Intraocular pressure and vault: The mean IOP was 13.6 ± 1.7 mmHg preoperatively. Postoperatively, the mean IOP was 11.6 ± 1.8 mmHg in early postoperative period, 12.3 ± 1.3 mmHg at 1 month, 12.5 ± 1.3 mmHg at 6 months, and 12.4 ± 1.5 mmHg at 12 months. No significant rise in IOP (>20 mmHg) occurred in any case during the 12

months follow up. The mean postoperative vault was $575.8 \mu\text{m} \pm 180.8$ at 1 week, $565.5 \pm 188.6 \mu\text{m}$ at 1 month, $535.9 \mu\text{m} \pm 202.9$ at 6 months, $485.7 \mu\text{m} \pm 240.5$ at 12 months follow up. There was trend toward decrease in the mean objective vault over time.

Adverse events and secondary surgeries: There were no complications during the surgical procedure. Postoperatively, no eye required PIOL explantation or repositioning, and there were no cases of decentration of the PIOL optic. No cataract formation, pigmentary glaucoma, pupillary block, or other vision-threatening complications occurred at any time during the 12 months follow up.

Discussion

The aim of the current study was to determine whether implantation of the toric implantable Collamer Lens PIOL is safe, predictable, and effective for moderate to high myopic astigmatism correction and to analyze the benefits or disadvantage related to the new design.

In order to compare with previous studies that reported data of the toric ICL, a 1 y follow-up study showed that toric ICL (V4 design) implantation is highly predictable, stable and safe up to 12 months postsurgery. The majority of eyes maintained or improved

their CDVA, which resulted in high safety index (1.14). More than 60% of eyes showed a gain in CDVA, only 1 eye lost 2 lines of CDVA at 12 months. In addition over 80% of eyes had CDVA of 20/25 or better at 12 months and the percent of eyes with 20/20 or better increased from 30 % preoperatively to 70% after toric ICL implantation [21]. A 3 y follow-up study of V4 toric ICL implantation showed that the lens was good in all measures of safety, efficacy, predictability, and stability for correction of moderate to high myopic astigmatism throughout 3 years observation period [22].

Regarding the new iridotomy free design V4c toric ICL, a study showed good outcomes over 3 months follow-up period, it was limited to eyes with cylinder range (0.00 to -2.00 D) and Sphere range (-1.37 to -15.75 D). Postoperatively, the mean decimal UDVA was 0.99 ± 0.18 and mean CDVA was 1.00 ± 0.20 . The mean spherical equivalent dropped from -7.62 ± 2.74 D to -0.09 ± 0.21 D at 3 months. No any adverse event during follow-up period²³ was evident.

The current study followed similar methodology of the previous study but in large sample of patients who had V4c PIOL implantation over longer period of follow up and for correction of higher astigmatic range from (-1.00 to -5.50D). It shows a statistically

significant reduction in the mean refractive cylinder ($P=0.000$) from $-2.61D \pm 1.16$ to $-0.11D \pm 0.18$. We obtained stable results and near emmetropia (mean SE $-0.11D \pm 0.20$). Fifty eight eyes (96.66%) were within ± 0.50 D and all eyes (100%) within $\pm 1.00D$ of targeted correction. Twenty nine (48.33%) eyes showed a gain in CDVA with a high safety index (1.21), twenty eyes (33.33%) had postoperative UDVA better than the preoperative CDVA, thirty three eyes (55%) had CDVA 20/25 or better and the percent of eyes that had the CDVA 20/20 increased from 23.33% (14) eyes preoperatively to 50% (30) eyes at 12 months after toric ICL implantation.

It is reasonable to believe that a central artificial hole in the optic of the V4c Implantable Collamer Lens PIOL may deteriorate the optical quality of PIOL by, for example, introducing halos or glare and consequently decreasing the visual quality of the patients. However, a previous study by Shiratani et al²⁴ evaluated the modulation transfer function (MTF) of an Implantable Collamer Lens PIOL with and without a central hole reported similar MTF for both PIOL designs. Their results agreed with those reported in the vitro study of Uozato et al.²⁵ in which small differences in the optical performance with negligible clinical effect

were found with a PIOL of 0.36mm central hole and a conventional PIOL. These outcomes suggest that the central hole in V4c Implantable Collamer Lens does not affect the optical quality and therefore the patient's visual quality. Our results agree with this considering our good visual acuity outcomes, which are similar to those reported in previous studies that evaluated the earlier version of this PIOL [4, 13, 26].

The central hole in the optic of V4c Implantable Collamer Lens allows more natural aqueous humor circulation and Nd-YAG iridectomies are not necessary, eliminating the risks and complications of this procedure. In the present study no significant rise in IOP (>20 mmHg) was found in any case after the 12 months follow-up even without preoperative or intra operative peripheral iridectomies. However when we evaluated the change in IOP over time and calculated variations between preoperative and postoperative values, we found that in most eyes, the IOP remained unchanged or showed a reduction of 1 to 2 mmHg from preoperatively at each follow-up.

Several authors described other concerns associated with PIOL implantation, such as anterior sub capsular opacities [12, 15, 27] and endothelial cell loss [17]. Cataract formation has been related to surgical trauma

(early cataract) or to constant or intermittent PIOL –crystalline lens contact because of insufficient vaulting (late cataract formation) [15, 28]. Because the central hole in the PIOL implanted in the current study improves the circulation of aqueous humor to the anterior crystalline lens surface, we found no anterior sub-capsular opacities over the follow up period. However it is important to control the amount of central vault after PIOL implantation. In the current study we found a trend toward a decrease in the mean vault. In most eyes, the vault was between 400-600µm.

Based on the predictability, efficacy, and safety outcomes in our study, implantation of the toric V4c Implantable Collamer Lens PIOL is effective, predictable, safe and stable for the correction of moderate to high myopic astigmatism during the 12 months follow-up. It is essential to conduct a study of large sample of patients with a long duration of follow-up to assess the safety and stability of this surgical procedure, particularly in terms of increased IOP.

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