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Study: Sclerotomy not effective for presbyopia, can cause complications

LOS ANGELES — Anterior ciliary sclerotomy did not restore accommodation in eyes with presbyopia and caused significant complications in a small study here.

Surgeons at the Jules Stein Eye Institute performed anterior ciliary sclerotomy in one eye each of nine presbyopic patients. None of the patients had had any previous ocular surgery except corneal refractive procedures. The contralateral eye served as a control. Follow-up was 6 months for all patients.

The researchers used both a primary and a secondary control to assess changes in accommodative amplitude and near vision through best distance correction.

Two complications were encountered. In one eye, an anterior chamber perforation resolved without sequelae after suturing. In another, a mild case of anterior segment ischemia was seen, manifested by sectoral iris akinesis.

“The intraoperative complication of a perforation is not a surprising occurrence, given that the goal of the anterior ciliary sclerotomy technique used here was to make an incision that is as near full scleral thickness as possible to achieve a maximal therapeutic result,” the study authors reported in the November issue of *Ophthalmology*.

“We found no short-term or long-term effect from anterior ciliary sclerotomy,” the authors concluded. They note that their findings are in “sharp distinction” to previous reports.

“In this study, the lack of efficacy of anterior ciliary sclerotomy and the potential for significant complications calls into question whether this or any other scleral surgical technique is an appropriate treatment for the correction of presbyopia. Better controlled studies are needed before widespread adoption of these techniques,” they conclude.

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