

RESULTS OF DEEP SCLERECTOMY WITH ESNOPER IMPLANT – IS TRABECULECTOMY STILL THE GOLD STANDARD?

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Purpose: To evaluate the results of deep sclerectomy (DS) with Esnoper implant in patients with open-angle glaucoma (OAG). **Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed 32 eyes of 26 medically uncontrolled OAG patients (26 eyes with primary OAG and 6 with exfoliative glaucoma), who had undergone consecutive DS with Esnoper implant, with minimum follow up of 6 months. In 28 eyes, intraoperative mitomycin-C 0,3mg/ml for 2 minutes was used. Intraocular pressure (IOP), number of antiglaucoma medication, visual acuity (VA), and slitlamp examination were performed before and after surgery. Intra and postoperative complications were recorded and managed accordingly. Complete success was defined as IOP 5 and 16 mmHg without antiglaucoma medication and qualified success as IOP 5 and 16 mmHg with or without medication. **Results:** After a mean follow-up time of 16, 6 months (range, 6 to 28), mean IOP was significantly reduced from $25,4\pm 6,8$ mmHg preoperatively to $13,2\pm 3,9$. Complete and qualified success rates were 81, 3% and 87%, respectively. The mean number of antiglaucoma medication per patient was significantly reduced from 3, 9 to 0, 4. Goniopuncture was performed on 9 eyes. Five eyes resumed antiglaucoma medication (3 of them after ineffective goniopuncture). Three eyes required reintervention, 2 of them for iris desincarceration. We had no complications like hyphema, endophthalmitis, choroidal detachment or reduction in VA, but we had 3 cases of trabeculodescemetoc window rupture. **Conclusions:** DS with Esnoper implant offers good short to medium term IOP control in OAG with few postoperative complications, providing a safe alternative to a standard trabeculectomy.