STRATEGIES for SUCCESS with TORIC & Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs
Visual outcomes from premium intraocular lenses (IOLs) depend on many factors, but precise preoperative measurements obtained with advanced diagnostic technologies form the foundation of a successful procedure.

**TRENDING TECHNOLOGY**

Precise measurements are especially important as more surgeons implant premium IOLs. Figure 1 shows the types of presbyopia-correcting IOLs surgeons are using, as reported in the 2017 and 2018 ESCRS Clinical Trends Surveys.

Looking to the next five years, 60% of 2018 survey respondents are most interested in integrating trifocal/quadrifocal IOLs into their practices, 59% EDOF IOLs and 24% light-adjustable IOLs. Furthermore, 32% of respondents most commonly use toric IOLs in a monofocal cataract patient with 1.25D of cylinder, 29% use on-axis incision and 21% use glasses or contact lenses.

**BUILDING ACCURATE DATA**

We perform a complete ocular examination to rule out conditions that may negatively impact the patient’s surgical outcome. It includes corneal topography with Scheimpflug imaging, as well as other technologies that can identify corneal abnormalities. This is followed by optical biometry.

We also use optical coherence tomography (OCT) to examine the retina. If retinal abnormalities are found, I do not implant a premium IOL. I also check for glaucoma and other abnormalities.

Figure 2 shows survey results for technologies used to obtain preoperative measurements for toric IOLs.

When measurements differ between two devices, I perform a third measurement with another device.

If K readings vary among three devices, for example, I investigate why. This inconsistency may be caused by ocular surface disease. I do not proceed if there are discrepancies.

Although surgeons often do not prioritise tear film assessment during preoperative examinations for cataract surgery, an inadequate tear film can impact preoperative measurements and visual outcomes.\(^1\)

Corneal topography provides information about the patient’s ocular surface, but additional tests, such as tear interferometry, tear osmolarity and MMP-9, also may be performed. If the patient has ocular surface disease, we treat it and perform IOL measurements after the ocular surface is optimised.

We also take a careful patient history, including age, profession and other details, and talk with patients about their expectations. We normally exclude patients with unrealistic expectations and those who cannot understand the potential side-effects associated with premium IOLs.

**ANTICIPATING CHALLENGES**

Despite our best efforts, postoperatively we may find that the patient was under-corrected or over-corrected. Residual refractive errors may result from anatomic differences between patients. For example, the location of the capsular bag affects IOL position. A higher-power IOL that is only 0.1mm forward in the capsular bag can cause a 1.0D refractive error.

I use the IOLMaster (Zeiss) to perform IOL calculations. If a surgeon is unsure about a patient who has had refractive surgery, I suggest using the ASCRS IOL power calculator for eyes that have previously had LASIK, PRK or RK (http://iolcalc.ascrs.org/).

The 2018 ESCRS survey showed that 65% of respondents consider posterior corneal astigmatism in their toric power calculations. According to Koch et al., overlooking posterior corneal astigmatism may lead to errors in estimating total corneal astigmatism.\(^2\)

Corneal topography with the Scheimpflug camera measures anterior and posterior corneal astigmatism.

Surgically induced astigmatism (SIA) generally is minimal if we use a 2mm corneal incision (typically 0.25-0.5D). When we implant a toric lens, the IOL calculation takes SIA into consideration.

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\(^1\) Although surgeons often do not prioritise tear film assessment during preoperative examinations for cataract surgery, an inadequate tear film can impact preoperative measurements and visual outcomes.

\(^2\) Corneal topography with the Scheimpflug camera measures anterior and posterior corneal astigmatism.
CONCLUSION

A comprehensive ocular examination is essential in preparing for cataract surgery. Today’s advanced diagnostic technologies enable surgeons to obtain precise measurements that will help patients achieve optimal visual outcomes from premium IOLs.

REFERENCES


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Figure 2. ESCRs 2018 survey responses to question: What are the primary preoperative measurements that drive your astigmatism axis decisions when implanting a toric IOL?

Intraoperative aberrometry
Others
OCT
Manual keratometry
Topography (Placido disc)
Tomography (Scheimpflug)
Optical biometry

Intraoperatively, we need to make the most of available technologies to ensure precise incisions and alignment of toric IOLs. I use the femtosecond laser to create the capsulorhexis, which provides more accurate surgical results. The diameter is precise and it perfectly covers the edge of the IOL, which may reduce the risk of postoperative lens rotation.

I also recommend microincision surgery, with a 2.2mm incision, to reduce the risk of SIA, which is particularly important with premium IOLs. To ’lock’ the IOL into the capsular bag, all viscoelastic under the IOL should be removed. Then the IOL should be aligned in the correct axis. Finally, the viscoelastic should be removed very gently, blocking the IOL with the second instrument. The patient should avoid strenuous activity for one week.

Many surgical systems include iris mapping or other features to assist the surgeon when aligning toric IOLs. I prefer an automated marking system for toric IOLs. Comparing a digital marking system with ink marking, Webers et al. reported that the digital system resulted in less toric IOL misalignment; however, visual acuity and residual astigmatism were not impacted.

The 2018 ESCRs survey showed that 46% of respondents who implant toric IOLs during cataract surgery perform ink marking with manual axial instruments; 31%, ink marking at the slit lamp without additional instruments; 17%, digital image registration; 6%, anatomical landmarks without preoperative marking; and 1% have access to intraoperative wavefront aberrometry.

If a surgeon does not have digital technology, manual marking can be performed at 12 o’clock and 6 o’clock, with alignment of a calibrated corneal marking ring at these points, which helps the surgeon implant the IOL in the correct position. — Simonetta Morselli, MD

“Surgically induced astigmatism generally is minimal if we use a 2-mm corneal incision”
Trifocal IOLs: Presbyopia and Astigmatism
Treatment Options

By Jorge Alió, MD, PhD

Today, a number of trifocal intraocular lens (IOL) technologies are available in Europe, including PanOptix (Alcon), AT LISA tri (Zeiss) and FineVision (PhysIOL). Many offer a toric version, which is a major advantage when striving to achieve optimal visual outcomes with this lens technology.1 Residual refractive error requiring correction is one of the main obstacles to patient satisfaction when using trifocal IOLs, so it is important to take necessary steps to achieve our target refraction.

In approximately one-third of all cases, we implant toric trifocal IOLs to correct astigmatism during surgery to avoid the need for postoperative laser vision correction for residual astigmatism.

LENS DESIGNS
The use of bifocal IOL technologies is declining, and manufacturers are using other technologies to increase patients’ intermediate focus.

We have a range of trifocal IOL models, as well as multifocal IOLs. Diffractive and refractive IOLs provide good vision for near, intermediate and distance (Figure 3).2,3 In a meta-analysis, Xu et al. found that trifocal IOLs provided better intermediate vision than bifocal IOLs.4

With trifocal IOLs, light is distributed to multiple foci to achieve far, intermediate and near vision. Some designs have slightly weak near distance vision. Extended depth of focus IOLs provide far and intermediate vision, with less near vision.5

MATCHING TECHNOLOGIES TO PATIENT NEEDS
I typically implant multifocal IOLs in active patients who are no older than 80 years. They usually enjoy reading and using computers, have hobbies requiring near vision and desire spectacle independence. If the patient has astigmatism greater than 1.0D, I implant a toric trifocal IOL.

I also use these lenses in children with paediatric cataracts or complications of certain diseases. If they have no other comorbidities, I believe they are excellent candidates for trifocal or multifocal IOLs rather than a monofocal IOL because they will require near vision for their entire lives.

When implanting trifocal IOLs, patient selection is important to achieve optimal results and patient satisfaction.

First, patients must have good tear film function to obtain optimum vision quality. Secondly, we need to be sure the quality of the cornea is good, as assessed by corneal topography and corneal aberrometry, without optical aberrations, especially from previous corneal refractive surgeries.

In general, I prefer not to implant multifocal IOLs in patients who have had previous corneal refractive surgeries, although some surgeons may disagree. Fifteen or 20 years ago, LASIK and PRK were performed with lasers with different optical profiles compared with today’s technologies, so many of these patients are not good candidates for multifocal IOLs. In these types of patients, other refractive technologies can be considered, such as a small-aperture IOL. As a general rule, if the patient has abnormal levels of coma and aspheric aberration (exceeding 1.0µm of total root mean square of higher-order aberrations or more than 0.3-0.4µm of either of these aberrations), these multifocal IOLs should not be implanted.

In addition, patients should have normal macular function and adequate visual potential. I often perform...

CASE REPORT: MYOPIC ASTIGMATISM WITH NUCLEAR SCLEROSIS

A 63-year-old biology professor with myopic astigmatism had nuclear sclerosis (nuclear opacity grades 1 and 2) that impacted his work in high contrast in cell biology. He was aware of advances in multifocal IOLs, but halos could compromise his work and he desired good night driving vision.

A refractive retinal asymmetric lens was recommended. Bilateral simultaneous sequential cataract surgery was performed, with implantation of a multifocal toric +3.0D IOL because near and intermediate vision were his main visual preferences. This lens is provided in a customised cylinder and must be implanted at 12 o’clock because the cylinder is in the exact position that we ordered. The surgery was uneventful and performed with topical anaesthesia with sedation.

Three days after surgery, the patient’s binocular distance vision was 0.8. Near vision was J2 with marginal levels of refraction. The patient was extremely happy with his quality of vision to define contrast, spectacle independence for all distances and improvement in his visual performance for all activities.

This case illustrates how multifocal IOLs can be selected for highly qualified persons with hypercritical personalities. A diffractive IOL was not chosen because low mesopic contrast sensitivity function could affect his research with microscopes and contrast phase meters. — Jorge Alió, MD, PhD

Figure 3. Trifocal IOLs have three distinct focal points for near, intermediate and far vision.
Technologies to explore and identify optical side-effects of refractive IOLs, particularly distortion, are to be developed because they are very much needed to better understand the optical behaviour of the human eye with these types of lenses.

CONCLUSION

Today’s trifocal IOLs allow surgeons to help patients achieve good near, intermediate and distance vision. To achieve optimal visual outcomes, careful patient selection, based on the absence of significant corneal anterior surface aberrations and comorbidities that decrease contrast sensitivity function with normal visual potential, is an important key to success. We also need to correct astigmatism during cataract surgery to avoid residual astigmatism to achieve a successful outcome. IOL technology should be selected by using evidence-based data.

Multifocal lenses, either refractive or diffractive, should be in the armamentarium of the modern cataract and lens surgeon.

REFERENCES


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With EDOF IOLs, surgeons may help patients attain more spectacle independence by using mini-monovision techniques.

PATIENT SCREENING
It is essential to perform a comprehensive examination before choosing an EDOF IOL, including visual acuity, manifest refraction, slit-lamp examination, ocular surface examination, keratometry, biometry, corneal topography and a complete retinal examination. We need to maintain contrast sensitivity with these lenses; therefore, the retina and macula must be perfect to achieve the best visual outcomes with EDOF IOLs.

One of the most important assessments is to determine the patient’s expectations. We also need to identify reading distance for each patient. For example, some patients read at 40cm, whereas others read at 50cm. Patients still reading at 50cm because they can accommodate to some extent are very good candidates for EDOF IOLs.

EDOF IOLs provide very good distance and intermediate vision.1-4 They do not provide total spectacle independence with regard to near distance, especially in dark conditions, so patients may need to use +1.0 or +1.5D reading glasses to optimise their near vision in these situations. However, they obtain good vision with reading glasses, which may not be the case with some trifocal IOL technologies. In addition, visual disturbances are less common.1-4

Patients seeking better visual performance for distance and intermediate vision who are willing to use +1.0D reading glasses for near in certain instances are good candidates for EDOF IOLs.

EXAMINING BENEFITS
We also need to consider the features of each EDOF lens in terms of patients’ expectations regarding visual quality and spectacle independence.

With EDOF IOLs, surgeons may help patients attain more spectacle independence by using mini-monovision techniques.6 Targeting the dominant eye as plano and the nondominant eye as slightly myopic (from -0.5 to -0.75D) may significantly increase the patient’s spectacle independence without compromising the quality of vision.

In addition, because EDOF IOLs are forgiving, I have found that patients may be more able to tolerate slight residual astigmatism and a small amount of defocus error postoperatively.

CONCLUSION
Preferences vary regarding the best IOL options for presbyopic patients. However, for surgeons who are considering presbyopia-correcting IOLs, I believe these lenses are very forgiving and provide good outcomes, even though patients may need to use low-add readers for near vision.

Surgeons who would like to offer presbyopia-correcting IOLs can provide excellent quality of vision with EDOF IOLs without significant dysphotopsia. They also can increase spectacle independence by using mini-monovision techniques with EDOF IOLs.

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Addressing Rotational and Residual Error After Implantation of Advanced Technology IOLs
Preoperative and postoperative steps enhance visual outcomes

By Oliver Findl, MD, MBA

Multifocal, extended depth of focus (EDOF) and toric intraocular lenses (IOLs) enable surgeons to correct presbyopia or astigmatism during cataract and refractive lens exchange surgeries. To improve patient satisfaction, surgeons need to take steps to prevent residual refractive errors and astigmatism and develop protocols to address them if they occur.

RESIDUAL ASTIGMATISM AFTER TORIC IOL IMPLANTATION

A common cause of residual astigmatism with toric IOLs is incorrect preoperative measurements. In addition, if we do not take into account posterior corneal astigmatism, our total corneal astigmatism prediction may be incorrect.1

In addition, the toric IOL may be placed incorrectly during surgery. Furthermore, it may rotate after surgery, which generally occurs within the first few hours or the first day or two postoperatively. (See case report for my protocol for postoperative IOL rotation.)

Surgeons should not reposition the IOL too early because it may rotate again. I typically wait one week to 10 days, when the anterior and posterior capsules have collapsed around the IOL and the capsular bag is smaller.

In very rare cases, the IOL may rotate multiple times. This may occur in patients with a very asymmetric capsular bag. We may need to explant the IOL and implant a spherical IOL, addressing the astigmatism with corneal refractive surgery.

ADDRESSING OTHER RESIDUAL ERRORS

Residual errors also may be caused by incorrect biometry measurements and IOL power calculations, as well as other issues.

When I am performing preoperative measurements, if results from two devices vary, I repeat them. If there are still discrepancies, the patient most likely has dry eye. I ask the patient to use artificial tears intensively and return one week later for measurements.

I also use four formulas for each eye (Barrett, Haigis, Holliday 2 and SRK/T) and compare the results. If the IOL powers are the same, I am satisfied. If they are quite different, I use the one that induces the most myopia. The likelihood of emmetropia is higher, and I

CASE REPORT: POSTOPERATIVE ROTATIONAL ERROR

In a patient with postoperative rotational error, we perform a refraction and measure the residual astigmatism. This is followed by keratometry and corneal tomography to identify postoperative changes due to surgically induced astigmatism.

I dilate the pupil and measure the IOL position at the slit lamp, comparing this with our intended axis. Because the IOL is in a different position, I use astigmatismfix.com. The software calculates how much rotation is necessary to reduce astigmatism. Figure 6 shows a sample graph using the calculator.

A problem arises when the axes calculated from the refraction and from the keratometry are different. In this situation, the refraction may not have been precise enough, which impacts the calculation. Or, the keratometry or topography also may be incorrect because of a poor tear film; therefore, we need to optimise the tear film before performing calculations.

I use a computer-guided system for intraoperative positioning of the IOL (Figure 5) and it works well for me; however, manual marking can produce good results if it is done precisely.

I open the previous paracentesis with an irrigating cannula. It is important to avoid using viscoelastic when rotating an IOL. Viscoelastic will re-inflate the capsular bag; after we remove it, the lens may rotate again.

I rotate the lens to the correct position using a Sinskey hook. It is a quick, minimally invasive procedure.

— Oliver Findl, MD, MBA
would rather patients have slight myopia than slight hyperopia. However, slight myopia will not work in patients receiving multifocal IOLs because they seek good uncorrected distance visual acuity.

For surgeons, even 0.5- to 0.75D is too much residual error. Slight myopia generally is not a significant problem, but +0.5D hyperopia is usually too much. However, some patients with +2.0 or +3.0D before surgery may be quite happy with +0.5D after surgery and may not want an additional procedure.

We have three options to correct residual spherical error. We can perform an IOL exchange, which should be done while it is easy to reopen the capsular bag. The second is to implant an add-on IOL, which is inserted into the sulcus. The third option is to perform laser refractive surgery.

I prefer an IOL exchange for significant refractive errors. If the capsule has shrink-wrapped the IOL and the lens is well positioned, I am more likely to insert an add-on lens.

Lens technology also determines how much residual error patients can tolerate. Patients with EDOF IOLs are more likely to accept refractive errors for distance because these lenses have a small plateau in the defocus curve, but intermediate vision may then be worse. With trifocal and bifocal IOLs, we need to be as close as possible to emmetropia for good functional vision.

CONCLUSION

When implanting advanced technology IOLs, we need to take steps before surgery to prevent residual error. To achieve patient satisfaction, we also need to know how to effectively correct residual errors and IOL rotation after surgery.

REFERENCES


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