

☒ **If surgery is required to control IOP in a patient with nanophthalmos, phacoemulsification with IOL implantation is a good option, but the complication rate is high**

### ***The Science behind the Tip***

Nanophthalmos, "small eye-big trouble", is a form of microphthalmos which is not accompanied by other congenital anomalies and is often familial. Hyperopia is present from birth and the axial length is less than 20 mm. Angle-closure glaucoma occurs between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> decades of life.

Glaucoma surgery in nanophthalmos has an extremely high complication rate with disastrous visual results<sup>1</sup>. Late choroidal effusion occurs in up to 50% of patients after trabeculectomy with mitomycin C<sup>2</sup>.

A recent study of phacoemulsification and IOL in these patients shows that the results have improved and choroidal effusion is less likely to occur (5%), but that complications (for example malignant glaucoma and severe uveitis) are still common<sup>3</sup>. Persistent choroidal effusion can be successfully treated by partial thickness sclerectomy, which suggests that reduced scleral permeability to protein secondary to thickened sclera plays a pathophysiological role in this complication<sup>4</sup>.

### ***References***

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