



After the insertion of a drainage tube, the risk of a delayed supra-choroidal haemorrhage can be reduced by avoiding post-operative hypotony

The Science behind the Tip

One of the most serious post-operative complications of tube-shunt surgery is a delayed supra-choroidal haemorrhage, which has been reported to occur in up to 8% of patients undergoing this surgery¹. The condition is characterised by sudden severe pain and decreased vision, associated with an acute rise in IOP and shallowing in the anterior chamber several days after surgery.

Risk factors include advanced age, systemic hypertension, high pre-operative IOP, aphakia and previous vitrectomy. It usually follows a period of post-operative hypotony and choroidal effusion^{2,3}.

To reduce the risk of supra-choroidal haemorrhage make sure that the tube is adequately occluded at the time of surgery. If hypotony develops, consider the injection of high viscosity viscoelastic solution into the anterior chamber and repeat if necessary. If the hypotony persists, deal with the cause of the hypotony surgically⁴.

References

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4. Wu Dunn D, Ryser D, Cantor LB. Surgical drainage of choroidal effusions following glaucoma surgery. *J Glaucoma* 2005; 14: 103-108.