



Corneal refractive surgery (LASIK) poses a risk to the glaucoma patient

The Science behind the Tip

The transient, yet significant, IOP elevation caused by the suction ring may further damage an already compromised optic nerve¹. The resultant corneal changes which induce an underestimation in IOP measurement, coupled with post-treatment topical steroid use, further adds to the glaucomatologist's anxiety². Steroid-induced IOP elevation may remain undetected if pressure-induced lamellar keratitis develops, as this further falsely lowers IOP measurement³.

Surface ablation procedures may be a better choice if combined with prophylactic MMC to modulate the need for long term post-treatment topical steroids⁴. However, ocular surface disorders secondary to the chronic use of topical hypotensives may lead to longer recovery times.

Although not an absolute contraindication, glaucoma is a relative contraindication to LASIK. Each patient should be considered on an individual basis, with the glaucomatologist and refractive surgeon working closely together.

References

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