Glaucoma associated with congenital aniridia is difficult to treat, but tube-shunt drainage devices offer the best results

The Science behind the Tip

Congenital aniridia is a rare bilateral developmental disorder which is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion in approximately two thirds of cases; the remainder occur sporadically. Glaucoma appears in late childhood or adolescence, when progressive changes occur in the drainage angle and occurs in 50-75% of affected individuals. The condition is often associated with other ocular defects (corneal disease, cataract formation and foveal hypoplasia) and some forms are linked to systemic disease (e.g. Wilms tumour).

Medical therapy is inadequate in most cases and trabeculectomy does not lead to long-term control of the IOP because of bleb failure secondary to scarring and progressive changes in the angle. Tube-shunt surgery appears to offer good results one year after surgery. The long-term results of this surgery have not been reported.

References