The results of trabeculectomy with mitomycin C are significantly improved in children with glaucoma secondary to juvenile idiopathic arthritis if they are on immune-modulatory treatment.

**The Science behind the Tip**

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common systemic disease associated with childhood anterior uveitis. Whereas the prognosis for vision was poor in previous years, good visual outcomes can now be achieved by early case recognition and by rapid referral to a uveitis specialist for immuno-modulatory therapy (IMT).  

JIA predisposes to secondary angle-closure glaucoma which can be difficult to treat and surgical intervention is often needed. Chronic inflammation and young age at onset increase the risk of filtration failure. However, in children on tumour necrosis factor inhibitor (anti TNF alpha) who undergo trabeculectomy with mitomycin C, control can be achieved in 73% 10 years after surgery (versus 0% not on IMT). The success rate is even better in those who have not undergone previous ocular surgery.

**References**


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