



Be aware of glaucoma therapy-related ocular surface disease when planning filtration surgery!

The Science behind the Tip

Glaucoma eye drops, especially when containing preservatives, are responsible for clinical or subclinical ocular surface alterations¹. Amongst other negative consequences, the so-called glaucoma therapy-related ocular surface disease² may i) increase the probability of needing glaucoma surgery, most likely due to medication intolerance³, and ii) increase the risk of surgical failure^{1,4}. Indeed, preoperative conjunctival inflammation is associated with an exaggerated wound healing process leading to bleb scarring and filtration failure¹.

A preoperative medical “preparation” of the ocular surface, including a one-month course of low-potency topical steroid, has been shown to improve the outcomes of filtering surgery⁵. This preoperative protocol may be tailored to each patient and combined with artificial tears and/or even partial or complete withdrawal of (preserved) glaucoma eye drops, that can be replaced, if needed, by oral acetazolamide.

References

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