Comparison of Trabeculectomy Outcomes Performed by Residents in Training and Ophthalmologists

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PRCIS: Resident-performed trabeculectomies present higher intraocular pressure and lower complete success rate at 1 year.

PURPOSE: To compare the 1-year outcomes of ab externo trabeculectomy between residents in training and staff ophthalmologists.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: This retrospective study included all consecutive eyes submitted to ab externo trabeculectomy between January 2015 to June 2020. A 1-year complete success rate was considered using all the following criteria: intraocular pressure (IOP) ≤21 mm Hg and ≤6 mm Hg without ocular hypotensive medications; IOP ≤21 mm Hg with ocular hypotensive medications; no的眼 blistering, no hypotony, no retinal detachment, no choroidal detachment, no phthisis bulbi, no further glaucoma surgery (excluding suture lysis and bleb needling).

RESULTS: One hundred and ten eyes from 99 patients were included. Thirty percent (n=33) of the trabeculectomies were performed by residents. There were no significant preoperative differences between groups, apart from age at surgery, which was higher in the residents' group (72.39±6.83 vs. 62.00±15.07 years, P<0.001).

CONCLUSIONS: Resident-performed trabeculectomies present significantly higher postoperative IOP levels and a lower complete success rate when compared with staff ophthalmologists. It is, therefore, fundamental to adopt strategies to change this gap, improve patient safety, and strengthen resident confidence.

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PMID: 36989506 DOI: 10.1097/IJG.0000000000002168