To Compare The Effect Of Cohesive And Dispersive Viscoelastic Substances In Protecting The Corneal Endothelium During In-The-Bag Phacoemulsification With Implantation Of A Foldable Lens

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Abstract

**Purpose:** To compare the effect of cohesive and dispersive viscoelastic substances in protecting the corneal endothelium during in-the-bag phacoemulsification with implantation of a foldable lens. These effects were measured in terms of: endothelial cell count, Hexagonality frequency, The central corneal thickness.

**Design:** Hospital based randomized interventional study

**Method:** Study was conducted on 60 patients (30 patients in group A and 30 patients in group B) who underwent phacoemulsification with IOL implantation. Group A- Patients who underwent phacoemulsification and IOL implantation using cohesive viscoelastic. (30 eyes of 30 patients). Group B- Patients who underwent phacoemulsification and IOL implantation using dispersive viscoelastic. (30 eyes of 30 patients). These effects were measured in terms of: endothelial cell count, Hexagonality frequency, The central corneal thickness

**Result:** We assessed the endothelial cell count, post-operatively at intervals of 1 month and 3 months and noted that, In Group A, the mean endothelial cell count dropped to 2135.97 ± 222.6/mm² at 1 month and 2077 ± 228/mm² at 3 months.(P<0.001)

In Group B, the mean endothelial cell count dropped to 2393.17±279.75/mm² at 1 month and 2332 ± 281.4/mm² at 3 months.(P<0.001) still the mean endothelial cell loss was significantly higher in group A as compared to group B at each follow up. (P<0.001)

Postoperatively, the mean CCT in group A increased to 528.9 ± 8.97 microns at 1 month and then reduced to 515 ± 11 microns at 3 months postoperatively. Similarly, in group B the mean CCT increased to 517.87 ± 9.44 microns at 1 month and then reduced to 511.3 ± 9.05 at 3 months postoperatively

The difference in the mean CCT between the groups was not significant preoperatively as well as at 3 months postoperatively. (P=0.12)

**Conclusion:** At the end of 3 months we found that the mean endothelial cell loss was more in group A than group B suggesting that the dispersive viscoelastics have a role in protecting the corneal endothelium during cataract surgery in comparison to cohesive viscoelastics. Though the mean central corneal thickness and hexagonality did not alter much and the values shift towards the preoperative status at the end of 3 months, and the difference was not statistically significant at the end of 3 months.

Financial Disclosure(s): The author(s) have no proprietary or commercial interest in any products discussed in this article.

**Keywords:** cohesive viscoelastics, dispersive viscoelastics, post-operative corneal edema

I. Introduction

The development of new surgical phaco techniques is aimed at restoring visual acuity (VA) in order to secure a fast return to normal social life and work. However, postoperative VA can still be seriously compromised by transient or permanent corneal oedema caused by a decrease in endothelial pump function. Corneal endothelial cell loss has been documented as one of the complications of phacoemulsification surgery. However, the incidence of variable degree of endothelial decompensation in patients after cataract surgery remains around 17%. To decrease postoperative endothelial cell loss, different ocular viscoelastic devices (OVDs) have been proposed to facilitate: surgical manoeuvres, maintain space during surgery, protect the endothelial cells. The introduction of viscoelastic agents (now termed ophthalmic viscosurgical devices (OVD) by the International Standards Organization (ISO) for uses in ophthalmic intraocular procedures had a significant impact on the practice of ophthalmology. OVD possess a unique set of properties, based on their chemical structure, that enable them to protect the corneal endothelium from mechanical trauma and to maintain an intraocular space, even in the face of an open incision. Maintenance of corneal transparency is an important...

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aspect of successful cataract surgery. In this context evaluation of corneal endothelial cell function after cataract surgery assumes great significance.

II. Aims And Objectives
To compare the effect of cohesive and dispersive viscoelastic substances in protecting the corneal endothelium during in-the-bag phacoemulsification with implantation of a foldable lens. These effects were measured in terms of:
1. Endothelial cell loss, based on endothelial cell count
2. Hexagonality frequency (the frequency of hexagonal cells)
3. The central corneal thickness

III. Materials And Methods
Setting/Tertiary care: Upgraded Department of Ophthalmology, SMS Medical College & Hospitals, Jaipur.
Study design: Hospital based randomized interventional study
Study Duration: 1 Year
Sample size- Study was conducted on 60 patients (30 patients in group A and 30 patients in group B) who underwent phacoemulsification with IOL implantation. After explaining the study, surgical procedures and possible complications, an informed consent was obtained and patients were assigned into two groups.
Group A- Patients who underwent phacoemulsification and IOL implantation using cohesive viscoelastic. (30 eyes of 30 patients)
Group B- Patients who underwent phacoemulsification and IOL implantation using dispersive viscoelastic. (30 eyes of 30 patients)

IV. Eligibility Criteria
-INCLUSION CRITERIA
1. All patients undergoing cataract surgery during study period,
2. Age greater than 40 years, 3. Pre operative endothelial cell count > 1500/mm² cells.
-EXCLUSION CRITERIA
• Traumas or previous intraocular surgery,
• Preoperative pupil dilatation < 4 mm,
• Age less than 40 years,
• Surgical complications.
• All patient not giving consent to participate in the study
Those who are not able to come on follow up.

V. Methodology
PRE OP EVALUATION
Ophthalmic evaluation:
- UCVA (Uncorrected Visual Acuity) and BCVA (Best Corrected Visual Acuity)
- Intraocular pressure (Applanation Tonometry)
- Slit lamp examination
- Fundus examination (indirect ophthalmoscopy)
- Keratometry, A scan and IOL Power calculation.
- Specular microscopy study with Topcon SP-3000 P specular microscope
1. Endothelial cell count per mm²
2. Central corneal thickness in microns
3. Hexagonality

PREOPERATIVE INVESTIGATIONS:
- Blood sugar (Fasting or Random)
- Urine complete
- ECG
- Blood pressure
PREOPERATIVE MEDICATION
- Ciprofloxacin eye drops 2 hourly one day prior to surgery in the eye to be operated
- Tab. Ciprofloxacin 500mg B.D. for 5 days

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VI. Surgical Technique

• All surgeries were performed by the same surgeon under topical anaesthesia using proparacaine 0.5% eye drops after pupillary dilation with tropicamide 0.8% and phenylephrine 5% eye drops.

• A single 0.9mm side port was created according to the main port site.

• After injecting dye Anterior Chamber (AC) was formed with ophthalmic viscoelastic device (OVD).

• Main planar clear corneal incision was created temporally using a 2.8mm keratome.

• A continuous curvilinear capsulorrhexis was performed using a capsulorrhexis forceps.

• After hydrodissection/ hydrolinement, phacoemulsification (divide and conquer) was performed using Alcon Laureate with kelman-type microtip (30 degree) and for the pulse mode program (vacuum 360mmHg; max 60% US power; bottle height 135cms). Cortical matter was removed with irrigation/aspiration (I/A) ultrasleeve tip.

• After filling the AC with OVD, foldable IOL with the recommended injector system was implanted into the eye. Finally OVD was removed with the I/A tip and the stromal wound was hydrated.

POSTOPERATIVE MEDICATION

Tobramycin 0.3% + Dexamethasone 0.1% eye drops 2 hourly for 6 weeks in tapering doses.

FOLLOW UP

The follow up examination was conducted 1 day, 1 week, 1 month and 3 months postoperatively with specular microscopy done at 1st and 3rd month postoperatively.

These effects were measured in terms of:
1. Endothelial cell loss, based on endothelial cell count
2. Hexagonality frequency (the frequency of hexagonal cells)
3. The central corneal thickness.

VII. Observations And Results

-STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Tests for difference among groups in demographic and clinical characteristics were carried out using chi-square tests for categorical variables and student T test tables for continuous variables. Normality of the data was checked by use of the Kolmogorov–Smirnov tests. Similar p-values were obtained using non-parametric tests. (data not shown). To evaluate whether there was a statistically significant difference withingroup, repeated measurements were evaluated by using paired t test was used. Probability was considered to be significant if less than 0.05.
This table shows the Comparative analysis of CELL DENSITY (per sq.mm) follow up period. No significant difference was observed among the groups at pre-op findings. Significant difference was found at 1 month and 3 months of follow up period, as the mean CELL DENSITY (per sq.mm) was significantly lower in group A as compared to group B.

![Graph 1](https://example.com/graph1.png)

**Graph 1:** Comparative analysis of CELL DENSITY (per sq.mm) during follow up period
To Compare The Effect Of Cohesive And Dispersive Viscoelastic Substances In Protecting The...

Table 2: Comparative analysis of C.C.T (µm) during follow up period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Pre Op</th>
<th>Post Op 1m</th>
<th>Post-Op 3m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>516.33</td>
<td>528.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stl. Deviation</td>
<td>12.25</td>
<td>8.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>512.90</td>
<td>517.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stl. Deviation</td>
<td>11.26</td>
<td>9.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table shows the Comparative analysis of C.C.T (µm) during follow up period and no significant difference was observed among the groups at preop findings, at 1 month and 3 months of the follow up period.

Graph 2: Comparative analysis of C.C.T(µm) during follow up period
Table 3: Comparative analysis of HEXAGONALITY% during follow up period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Pre Op</th>
<th>Post Op 1m</th>
<th>Post Op 3m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group A</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>56.367</td>
<td>55.000</td>
<td>54.133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>3.3084</td>
<td>3.2162</td>
<td>3.1484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group B</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>54.867</td>
<td>53.133</td>
<td>53.933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>4.0491</td>
<td>3.6268</td>
<td>3.7502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>55.617</td>
<td>54.067</td>
<td>54.033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>3.8316</td>
<td>3.5265</td>
<td>3.4345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table shows the Comparative analysis of HEXAGONALITY% during follow up period and no significant difference was observed among the groups at pre-op findings. No significant difference was observed in the mean HEXAGONALITY% among the groups at 1month and 3 month of the follow up period.

Graph 3: Comparative analysis of HEXAGONALITY% during follow up period
VIII. Discussion

60 eyes of 60 patients were evaluated in our study with the aim to study and assess the corneal endothelial cell density, central corneal thickness and hexagonality in patients undergoing phacoemulsification and IOL implantation with cohesive viscoelastics (Group A-30) and with dispersive viscoelastics (Group B-30).

Our study reports postoperative status of the corneal endothelium after cataract surgery and compares the status of the 2 groups. In our study, the mean age in group A was 62.20 ± 7.13 years and in group B was 62.45 ± 5.78 years. The difference was not statistically significant.(P value is 0.424). No significant difference was observed in gender. Thus, we did not observe any difference in both the groups. The mean Endothelial Cell Counts (ECC) in group A, preoperatively was 2565.67 ± 271.194/mm2 and in group B was 2534.7 ± 277.55/mm2.(P=0.664). Thus, there was no difference in endothelial cell count pre-operatively. We assessed the endothelial cell count, post-operatively at intervals of 1 month and 3 months and noted that, In Group A, the mean endothelial cell count dropped to 2135.97 ± 222.6/mm2 at 1 month and 2077 ± 228/mm2 at 3 months.(P<0.001)

In Group B, the mean endothelial cell count dropped to 2393.17±279.75/mm2 at 1 month and 2332 ± 281.4/mm2 at 3 months.(P<0.001) It was observed that pre-operatively there was no significant difference in the endothelial cell counts between the two groups, still the mean endothelial cell loss was significantly higher in group A as compared to group B at each follow up. (P<0.001)

IX. Summary And Conclusion

Our study entitled The effect of viscoelastic substances in protecting corneal endothelial cell population during cataract surgery: a prospective study of cohesive and dispersive viscoelastics was conducted in the upgraded Department of Ophthalmology, S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur. This study included a total of 60 patients: 30 patients in group A and 30 patients in group B. Group A- 30 patients who underwent phacoemulsification and IOL implantation with cohesive viscoelastics. Group B- 30 patients who underwent phacoemulsification and IOL implantation with dispersive viscoelastics. Phacoemulsification was done by a single surgeon. No difference was observed in the pre-operative and intra-operative parameters. We assessed corneal endothelial cell count, central corneal thickness, and hexagonality. Follow up was done at 1st postoperative day, 1 week, 1 month and 3 months with specular microscopy done at 1 month and 3 months. At the end of 3 months we found that the mean endothelial cell loss was more in group A than group B suggesting that the dispersive viscoelastics have a role in protecting the corneal endothelium during cataract surgery in comparison to cohesive viscoelastics.

Though the mean central corneal thickness and hexagonality did not alter much and the values shift towards the preoperative status at the end of 3 months, and the difference was not statistically significant at the end of 3 months. Despite no corneal abnormalities before surgery, the endothelium is vulnerable to surgical trauma and these findings should be considered when planning cataract surgery.

References


Dr. Manisha kalher "To Compare The Effect Of Cohesive And Dispersive Viscoelastic Substances In Protecting The Corneal Endothelium During In-The-Bag Phacoemulsification With Implantation Of A Foldable Lens." IOSR Journal of Dental and Medical Sciences (IOSR-JDMS), vol. 17, no. 6, 2018, pp 19-25.