

Review Article

Ocular Biometric Changes after Trabeculectomy

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Abstract

This review article aimed to evaluate ocular biometric changes after trabeculectomy. The PubMed database was searched using the keywords "axial length" (AL), "anterior chamber depth" (ACD), "corneal astigmatism," "corneal topography" and "trabeculectomy." The extracted studies were categorized based on the evaluated parameters and the biometry method (contact and non-contact). Comparable studies with respect to their sample size were combined for statistical analysis. Twenty-five studies including 690 individuals which met the inclusion criteria were selected. After trabeculectomy, a significant and persistent AL reduction, with a range of 0.1-0.19 and 0.1-0.9 mm measured with contact and non-contact methods, respectively, was observed. With respect to topographic changes, 0.38-1.4 diopters (D) with-the-rule (WTR) astigmatism was induced postoperatively. All studies revealed ACD reduction immediately after surgery, which gradually deepened and approximated its preoperative levels on day 14. ACD reduction was not significant after that period in the majority of cases. In conclusion, changes in ACD is of small amount and of short period, thus it can be ignored; however, reported changes in AL and keratometry are of sufficient magnitude and can affect the refractive prediction of combined cataract surgery and trabeculectomy.

Keywords: Anterior Chamber Depth; Axial Length; Keratometry; Trabeculectomy

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INTRODUCTION

Trabeculectomy, the most common surgical procedure for long-term reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) in glaucoma, bypasses the conventional outflow pathway by creating a corneoscleral fistula that leads

to subconjunctival bleb formation.^[1,2] Maintaining the integrity of the bleb is the key factor for successful outcomes. Intraoperative application of antimetabolites helps to meet this goal and has provided major progresses in achieving better surgical outcomes, especially in those who are at a higher risk of surgical failure.^[3] Significant IOP reduction post trabeculectomy could reduce the axial length (AL) of the eye corresponding to the amount of IOP reduction.^[4] Anterior chamber depth (ACD) and volume, as well as keratometry could also change after the surgery. These unpredictable changes may affect the accuracy of intraocular lens (IOL) power calculation in cases who need cataract surgery and IOL implantation

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combined with glaucoma surgery; this is of particular concerns, considering the increased frequency of glaucoma and cataract in elderly patients. In fact, it is well established that even small changes in AL could lead to clinically significant error in IOL power calculation and refractive prediction of cataract surgery.^[5] The purpose of the current study is to review articles which studied the effect of trabeculectomy on biometric indices.

METHODS

Search Strategy

The literature search was performed on PubMed database from its inception to April 2015 using the keywords "axial length" (AL), "anterior chamber depth" (ACD), "corneal astigmatism," "corneal topography" and "trabeculectomy." The research question was the relationship between ocular biometry and trabeculectomy. The biometry method (contact and non-contact) and evaluated parameters were applied to categorize the extracted articles. The similar articles in terms of sample size were combined to conduct the statistical analysis and finally 25 out of 91 studies were extracted, including 690 individuals were extracted.

The inclusion criteria were: (1) The study had been conducted on adult human subjects (2) the initial surgical intervention was trabeculectomy. The exclusion criteria included (1) studies on congenital or childhood glaucoma (2) studies on patients with history of cataract surgery or combined cataract surgery and trabeculectomy (3) studies on acute glaucoma.

Data Extraction

Information on study location, design, number of patients and their demographic data (age, sex and type of glaucoma), type of surgical intervention, type of applied antimetabolites, the duration of follow-up, type of instruments used to obtain measurements, main outcomes measured and mean changes of the main outcomes in each follow-up were collected.

Statistical Analysis

All analyses were performed using SPSS (Version 22.0, IBM Co., Chicago, IL, USA). The mean and standard deviation with respect to sample size of each study at each examination point was considered and an overall mean was calculated. To evaluate the estimation accuracy, the 95% confidence interval was used.

RESULTS

A total of 25 studies were included in the present review. Tables 1-3 display the characteristics of each study. All articles were published between 1989 and 2015.

Axial Length Changes

Eight studies evaluated the effect of trabeculectomy on AL and all these studies reported significant AL reduction postoperatively, which became stable nearly 3 months after the surgery. These studies were different in terms of the follow-up period, application of intraoperative antimetabolites and method of AL measurement [Table 4]. At all follow-up periods, the amount of reduction in AL measured by optical devices was less than that measured by ultrasonic tools [Figure 1].

Anterior Chamber Depth Changes

ACD changes following trabeculectomy were investigated in 9 studies [Table 5]. Measurement methods varied in different studies including: Haag-Streit pachymetry (Haag-Streit AG, Koeniz, Switzerland),^[13,16] A-scan (Cinescan; Quantel Medical, Clermont-Ferrand, France),^[9,11] ultrasound biomicroscopy (UBM Vumax II, Sonomed Inc., NY, USA),^[17,19] and IOL master (Carl Zeiss Meditec AG, Jena, Germany).^[18] The studies which evaluated patients in immediate postoperative periods showed that the ACD was the shallowest on days 2-4, and then deepened gradually to reach 87-91% of its preoperative values on day 14. Most of these reports showed that ACD remained less than preoperative values until the last visit.

Keratometry Changes

A total of 12 studies have addressed the effect of trabeculectomy on corneal curvature; they differed in follow-up duration, using intraoperative antimetabolites and method of measurement [Tables 6 and 7]. Four out of these 12 studies compared the keratometric data obtained by keratometry and topography. In all studies, there was an induced with-the-rule (WTR) astigmatism early postoperatively which decreased gradually and shifted toward preoperative values over time [Figure 2].

The AL, ACD and keratometry changes during one year follow-up after trabeculectomy are summarized in Table 8.

DISCUSSION

Trabeculectomy can cause changes in AL, ACD, and keratometry, which may last more than one year.^[30] These changes can be significant enough to affect visual acuity, the accuracy of IOL power calculation, and refractive outcomes after combined or future cataract surgery.

The AL is less than preoperative values at all follow-up points after trabeculectomy.^[4,6-12] A reduction of 0.1-0.9 mm has been reported in several studies which would stabilize almost 3 months after the surgery.^[4,6-12] Nemeth and Horoczi^[6] noticed the AL reduction 4 days after trabeculectomy for the first

Table 1. Studies on axial length changes after trabeculectomy

Author (year)	Location	Design	Total number patients	Age (range)	Sex (male/female)	Diagnosis	Length of follow-up
Németh and Horóczy (1992) ^[6]	Hungary	PS	10	61-80	-	POAG, PACG, GC	4 days
Cashwell and Martin (1999) ^[7]	USA	RCCS	62	33-81	30/32	POAG, SOAG, CACG	-
Kook et al (2001) ^[8]	Korea	PS	16	18-72	6/10	POAG, SIG, UG	12 months
Francis et al (2005) ^[4]	USA	PICS	39	>21	15/24	OAG, ACG	3 months
Husain et al (2013) ^[9]	Singapore	PCS	122	36-82	92/30	POAG	5 years
Kara et al (2013) ^[10]	Turkey	PIS	39	28-72	-	POAG	1 month
Chen et al (2014) ^[11]	China	PS	17	53.4±7.1	-	PACG	1 week
Pakravan et al (2015) ^[12]	Iran	PICS	31	24-72	20/11	POAG, PACG	6 months

ACG, angle closure glaucoma; CACG, chronic angle closure glaucoma; GC, glaucoma capsular; OAG, open angle glaucoma; PS, prospective study; RCCS, retrospective consecutive case series; PICS, prospective interventional case series; PACG, primary angle closure glaucoma; PCS, prospective cohort study; PIS, prospective interventional study; POAG, primary open angle glaucoma; SOAG, secondary open angle glaucoma; SIG, steroid-induced glaucoma; UG, uveitic glaucoma

Table 2. Studies on anterior chamber depth changes after trabeculectomy

Author (year)	Location	Design	Number of patients	Age (mean) years	Diagnosis	Length of follow-up
Kao et al (1989) ^[13]	USA	PS	8	-	PG	42 days
Goins et al (1990) ^[14]	USA	PS	14	-	-	14 days
Cunliffe et al (1992) ^[15]	UK	PS	16	64.9	CSG	Mean of 10 months
Peng and Zhou (1992) ^[16]	China	PS	26	-	PACG	60 days
Martínez-Belló et al (2000) ^[17]	Spain	PS	17	53-75	POAG, ExG	6 months
Karasheva et al (2003) ^[18]	Germany	PS	44	32-85	POAG, PXFG, SG, JG	3 months
Husain et al (2013) ^[9]	Singapore	PCS	122	36-82	POAG	5 years
Chen et al (2014) ^[11]	China	PS	17	53.4±7.1	PACG	1 week
Man et al (2015) ^[19]	China	PS	24	-	PACG	1 year

CSG, chronic simple glaucoma; ExG, exfoliative glaucoma; JG, juvenile glaucoma; PACG, primary angle closure glaucoma; PCS, prospective cohort study; PG, phakic glaucoma; POAG, primary open angle glaucoma; PS, prospective study; PXFG, pseudoexfoliative glaucoma; SG, secondary glaucoma

Table 3. Studies on keratometry changes after trabeculectomy

Author (year)	Location	Design	Number of patients	Age (range or mean)	Sex (male/female)	Diagnosis	Follow-up
Hugkulstone (1991) ^[20]	UK	-	10	67.2±7.4	5/5	COAG	7 weeks
Cunliffe et al (1992) ^[15]	UK	PS	16	64.9	8/8	CSG	Mean of 10 months
Rosen et al (1992) ^[21]	USA	PS	8	-	-	POAG, NTG	12 weeks
Claridge et al (1995) ^[22]	UK	PS	29	-	-	POAG	3 months
Liu et al (1996) ^[23]	China	PS	42	-	-	-	-
Dietze et al (1997) ^[24]	USA	PS	13	49-86	4/9	POAG, CACG, UG, ITCDG	12 weeks
Zarnowski et al (1997) ^[25]	Poland	PS	34	-	-	-	3 months
Hong et al (1998) ^[26]	Korea	PS	-	-	-	-	12 months
Vernon et al (1999) ^[27]	UK	PS	16	68.2±8.9	4/12	-	12 months
Kook et al (2001) ^[8]	Korea	PS	16	18-72	6/10	POAG, SIG, UG	12 months
Egrilmez et al (2004) ^[28]	Turkey	PS	11	60.36±12.96	-	OAG	6 months
El-Saied et al (2014) ^[29]	Egypt	PICS	42	>19	-	POAG	6 months

CACG, chronic angle closure glaucoma; COAG, chronic open angle glaucoma; CSG, chronic simple glaucoma; ITCDG, iridotrabeculocorneal dysgenesis glaucoma; NTG, normal tension glaucoma; OAG, open angle glaucoma; PICS, prospective interventional comparative study; POAG, primary open angle glaucoma; PS, prospective study; SIG, steroid-induced glaucoma; UG, uveitic glaucoma

time. Cashwell and Martin^[7] examined the records of 62 patients who underwent trabeculectomy and compared AL before and after the surgery. Using an

applanation ultrasound biometry, they reported a mean AL reduction of 0.423 ± 0.61 mm 22.5 months after trabeculectomy.

Table 4. Axial length changes after trabeculectomy in different studies

Author (year)	Intraoperative antimetabolite	Measurement method	Follow-up	Mean change (mm)
Németh and Horóczy (1992) ^[6]	None	Echobiometry	Day 4	AL reduced
Cashwell and Martin (1999) ^[7]	16 patients: 5-FU, 12 patients: MMC, 34 patients: Non	Applanation A-scan ultrasound	Mean of 22.5 months	-0.423±0.61
Kook et al (2001) ^[8]	MMC	Applanation A-scan ultrasound	Week 1	-0.54±0.87
			Month 1	-1.15±1.56
			Month 3	-0.83±1.00
			Month 6	-0.8±0.96
			Month 12	-0.91±0.98
Francis et al (2005) ^[4]	MMC	IOL master	Week 1	-0.15±0.03
			Month 3	-0.18±0.02
			Month 6	-0.16±0.03
Husain et al (2013) ^[9]	64 patients: 5-FU, 58 patients: Placebo	A-scan ultrasound	Month 1	-0.13±0.36 (minimum reduction)
			Month 3	-0.26±0.4 (maximum reduction)
			Mean of 5 years follow-up	-0.16±0.25
Kara et al (2013) ^[10]	MMC	IOL master	Month 1	-0.1±0.97
Chen et al (2014) ^[11]	None	IOL master	Week 1	0.1 (0.0, 0.2)
Pakravan et al (2015) ^[12]	MMC	LenStar	Month 3	-0.14±0.13
			Month 6	-0.14±0.15

AL, axial Length; IOL, intraocular lens; 5-FU, fluorouracil; MMC, mitomycin-C

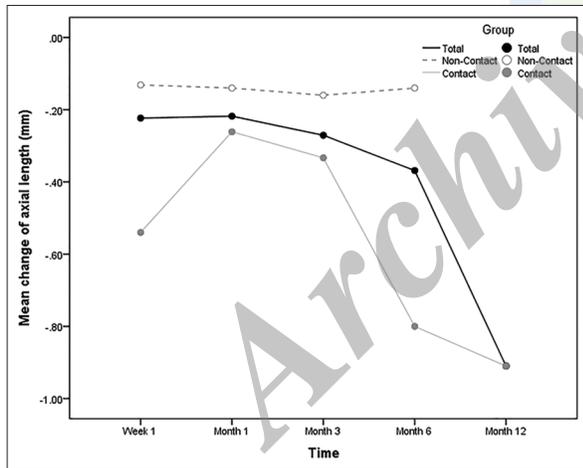


Figure 1. Axial length changes (mm) after trabeculectomy measured by contact and non-contact biometry during 12-month follow-up.

Studies on this subject differ mainly in the method of measurement and application of antimetabolites. A subset of the patients who received antimetabolite at the time of surgery had lower IOP and were more likely to experience greater amounts of biometric changes postoperatively.^[4,7-10,12] Kook et al^[8] reported a significant reduction in AL after trabeculectomy with mitomycin-C (MMC) which was lower than that reported by other studies. Using an applanation ultrasound biometry,

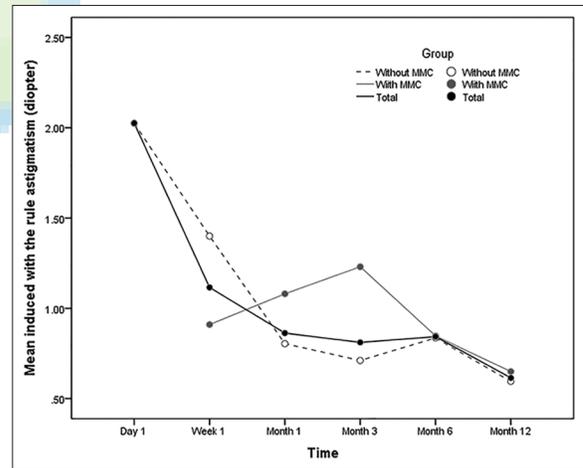


Figure 2. Induced with-the-rule astigmatism after trabeculectomy during one year follow-up. MMC, mitomycin-C.

they reported that AL was reduced by 0.83 ± 1.00 mm at the follow-up month 3. In more recent studies in which investigators used non-contact methods for AL measurement, the reported amount of AL reduction were significantly lower than the applanation method. A study by Francis et al^[4] showed a reduction of 0.16 ± 0.03 mm in AL post-operatively measured by IOL Master. In a group of their patients who developed hypotony, AL reduction was almost 3 times greater than that in patients without hypotony (0.39 ± 0.11 vs. 0.14 ± 0.15 mm), which

Table 5. Anterior chamber depth changes after trabeculectomy in different studies

Author (year)	Measurement Method	Follow-up	ACD changes
Kao et al (1989) ^[13]	Haag-Streit pachymeter	42 days	Shallowest on days 2 or 3, then deepens up to day 15
Goins et al (1990) ^[14]	-	14 days	Shallowest on day 2, then deepens up to day 14
Cunliffe et al (1992) ^[15]	-	10 months	On weekly follow-ups, shallowest at 1 st and stabilization at 3 rd week visit
Peng and Zhou (1992) ^[16]	Haag-Streit pachymeter	60 days	Shallowest on day 3, then deepens up to day 14
Martínez-Belló et al (2000) ^[17]	Ultrasound biomicroscopy	6 months	ACD remained unchanged
Karasheva et al (2003) ^[18]	IOL master	3 months	No significant changes at all post operation visits
Husain et al (2013) ^[9]	A-scan ultrasound	5 years	Mean ACD reduction of 0.11±0.22 mm during the 5-years follow-up
Chen et al (2014) ^[11]	A-scan ultrasound	1 week	No significant change
Man et al (2015) ^[19]	Ultrasound biomicroscopy	1 year	ACD decreased from 2.00±0.21 mm to 1.97±0.22 mm (P=0.001)

ACD, anterior chamber depth; IOL, Intraocular lens

Table 6. Keratometry changes after trabeculectomy in different studies

Author (year)	Intraoperative antimetabolite	Measurement method	Follow-up	Findings
Hugkulstone (1991) ^[20]	None	Autokeratometry	7 months	Vertical corneal radius reduction in the first postoperative day with a gradual increase until 7 th week
Cunliffe et al (1992) ^[15]	None	Keratometry	10 months	WTR astigmatism shift that returned to the preoperative values within 10 months
Rosen et al (1992) ^[21]	None	Keratometry and computer-assisted topography	3 months	Mean WTR astigmatism of 1.24 D at 3 months after trabeculectomy
Claridge et al (1995) ^[22]	None	Manual keratometry and computer-assisted corneal topography	3 months	Two patterns of topographic variations: superior corneal steepening and flattening, with WTR astigmatism in both conditions
Liu et al (1996) ^[23]	None	Keratometry	-	WTR astigmatism more than 2 D in 41.03% of patients in early postoperation
Dietze et al (1997) ^[24]	None	Computerized videokeratography	3 months	WTR astigmatism at 1 st week, which returned to within 1 D of preoperative values on 12 th week
Zarnowski et al (1997) ^[25]	with or without MMC	Computer-assisted videokeratography	3 months	There was a relationship between the amount of induced astigmatism and using of MMC
Hong et al (1998) ^[26]	with or without MMC	-	12 months	MMC induces less WTR astigmatism in early postoperative periods and subsequent ATR astigmatism shift up to 12 months
Vernon et al (1999) ^[27]	None	Manual keratometry and computerized corneal videokeratoscopy	12 months	Less induced astigmatism in comparison to other studies
Kook et al (2001) ^[8]	MMC	Automated keratometry	12 months	WTR changes up to 3 months postoperatively followed by an ATR shift
Egrilmez et al (2004) ^[28]	None	Autokeratometry and computerized corneal videokeratoscopy	6 months	WTR astigmatism at 1 day after trabeculectomy with gradually shifts toward ATR astigmatism during follow-up period
El-Saied et al (2014) ^[29]	MMC	Autokeratometry	6 months	Trabeculectomy induced considerable postoperative astigmatism

ATR, against the rule; D, diopter; MMC, mitomycin-C; WTR, with the rule

could lead to an error of 1.5 diopters (D) in IOL power calculation.

The reported reduction in AL could last for up to 5 years post-operatively.^[9] In a study by Husain et al,^[9]

Table 7. Induced astigmatism (diopter) after trabeculectomy in different studies

Type	Author	Time after operation						
		Day 1	Week 1	Day 10	Month 1	Month 3	Month 6	Month 12
Without MMC	Rosen et al ^[21]					+1.24		
	Dietze et al ^[24]		+1.4±1.1		+0.5±0.5	+0.4±0.3		
	Zarnowski et al ^[25]	+2.2		+1.3		+0.4		
	Hong et al ^[26]				+2.63			+1.42
	Vernon et al ^[27] (Kr)				+0.68±0.27	+0.38±0.33	+0.52±0.42	+0.55±0.32
	Vernon et al ^[27] (VKS)				+0.75±0.43	+0.66±0.64	+0.59±0.32	+0.64±0.27
	Egrilmez et al ^[28] (Kr)	+2.12±1.83			+1.09±0.82	+1.06±0.68	+1.24±0.96	
	Egrilmez et al ^[28] (VKS)	+1.93±1.85			+1.14±0.84	+0.9±0.7	+1.25±1.08	
With MMC	Zarnowski et al ^[25]	+4.00		+3.00		+1.1		
	Hong et al ^[26]				+1.01			-0.34
	Kook et al ^[8]		+0.91±2.50		+1.08±2.25	+1.23±2.08	+0.94±2.02	+0.65±1.36
	El-Saied et al ^[29]						+0.82±2.00	

+, with the rule astigmatism and -, indicates against the rule astigmatism. Kr, keratometry; MMC, mitomycin-C; VKS, videokeratoscopy

Table 8. Biometric changes after trabeculectomy

Parameter	Time after operation					
	Day 1	Week 1	Month 1	Month 3	Month 6	Month 12
AL reduction with contact biometry ^[8,9] (mm)		0.54±0.87	0.26±0.64	0.33±0.51	0.8±0.96	0.91±0.98
AL reduction with noncontact biometry ^[4,10-12] (mm)		0.13±0.02	0.14±0.02	0.16±0.03	0.14±0.15	
ACD reduction ^[9] (mm)		-0.23±0.08				
Induced WTR astigmatism (without MMC) ^[21,24,26-28] (D)	2.03±1.84	1.40±1.10	0.80±0.58	0.71±0.54	0.84±0.71	0.60±0.30
Induced WTR astigmatism (with MMC) ^[8,26,29] (D)		0.91±2.50	1.08±2.25	1.23±2.08	0.85±2.00	0.65±1.36

ACD, anterior chamber depth; AL, axial length; D, diopter; mm, millimeter; WTR, with the rule

mean AL reduction was 0.16 ± 0.25 mm during 5 years of follow-up, with the maximum changes at month 3 after the surgery (0.26 ± 0.4 mm). In a recent prospective study, we used a non-contact optical biometry device (LenStar LS 900) in 34 eyes that underwent trabeculectomy with MMC and found a mean AL reduction of 0.14 ± 0.13 and 0.14 ± 0.15 mm at the postoperative months 3 and 6, respectively.^[12] Our results showed that there was no significant difference in the amount of AL reduction between postoperative months 3 and 6, indicating the stabilization of AL changes at least 3 months after the surgery.

Different methods of AL measurement explain disparity between the results of different studies. Ultrasonic methods used in some studies led to more pronounced AL reduction in comparison to non-contact techniques.^[7-9] Non-contact methods avoid globe indentation and deformation which is in contrast to contact ultrasonic methods tending to deform and underestimate AL in post-trabeculectomy eyes. Therefore, AL may be underestimated by contact methods.

Some studies investigated the causes of AL changes after trabeculectomy and showed that high preoperative IOP, low postoperative IOP, young age, application of antimetabolites, myopic refractive errors and surgical

complications such as choroidal detachment and hypotony maculopathy were significantly associated with the AL reduction after the surgery.^[4,7,8] Hypotony (IOP ≤ 6 mmHg) is a common complication after trabeculectomy with a prevalence rate of 10-37%.^[31] The amount of AL reduction reported in eyes with hypotony after trabeculectomy is significantly (2.5-3 times) higher than that in non-hypotonic eyes.^[4,7] The proposed mechanism of AL reduction after trabeculectomy includes an increase in choroidal and ocular wall thickness associated with IOP reduction after the surgery.^[6,8,32] The direct relationship between the amount of IOP reduction, and choroidal thickness increase and AL reduction has been demonstrated in several studies.^[8,10] In a study by Husain et al,^[9] each one mmHg decrease in IOP led to a 0.01-mm reduction in AL in patients with primary open-angle glaucoma. It has also been shown that patients with open-angle glaucoma are more sensitive to AL changes and experience more AL fluctuations during the first 3 months after trabeculectomy compared to patients with angle-closure glaucoma.^[9]

The ACD largely returns to its preoperative values within 14 days following the procedure. After this point, mean ACD is 0.11 ± 0.22 mm smaller compared to preoperative values when obtained by contact

ultrasound biometry, and comparable to preoperative values when obtained by non-contact biometry.^[13,14,16]

In most studies, it has been shown that ACD becomes shallow immediately after the surgery and reaches its shallowest value on the 2nd and 3rd day post-operatively; thereafter ACD begins to increase gradually to attain its preoperative values on the day 14.^[13,14,16] In contrast, Cunliffe et al^[15] showed that although ACD returned to its preoperative values in the 3rd week, it was less than preoperative values up to the last visit in the majority of cases (56%). They found a positive relationship between ACD and refractive error changes in their study, such as myopic shift in the first week which returned to preoperative values 3 weeks after trabeculectomy. Martínez-Belló et al^[17] examined the anterior chamber angle and depth after trabeculectomy using ultrasound biomicroscopy and showed that despite an increase in the anterior chamber angle, ACD does not change significantly after trabeculectomy.

In contrast to AL measured by non-contact method, ACD seems not to be affected by the procedure, at least 3 weeks post-trabeculectomy; a fact that has been confirmed in a study that used non-contact method to measure ACD.^[18] Based on the current literature, it seems that ACD reduction has a minimum contribution to decreased AL observed postoperatively.

Most studies that evaluated keratometric changes after trabeculectomy have revealed induced WTR astigmatism with a mean of 0.81 ± 1.08 D at the postoperative month 3 which tends to resolve within one year.^[8,21,24,27,28] This topographic change was first demonstrated by Hugkulstone who observed a reduction in the vertical corneal radius of curvature during 7 weeks after 5×5 -mm scleral flap trabeculectomy.^[20] Similarly, Rosen et al^[21] found a mean WTR astigmatism of 1.24 D 3 months after trabeculectomy. This amount of induced astigmatism was confirmed in several other studies.^[8,24,27,28]

To further analyze the probable causes of keratometric changes, some investigators evaluated the amount of induced WTR astigmatism after mini-trabeculectomy (2 mm \times 2 mm scleral flap) and reported less amounts of induced astigmatism which lasted for a shorter duration.^[27] In contrast, using antimetabolites at the time of surgery is a risk factor for the longer duration of induced WTR astigmatism postoperatively.^[25,26] Other suggested mechanisms include tight scleral flap suturing and posteriorly placed wound gape from the internal sclerostomy.^[20] Cunliffe et al^[15] proposed that internal sclerostomy allows corneal edge of trabeculectomy to retract and subsequently reduced vertical corneal radius. Rosen et al^[21] considered cauterization at the time of surgery as one of the main factors for corneal curvature changes. Other explanations put forward include superior corneal steepening secondary to contraction of

surrounding tissues at trabeculectomy area, overhanging bleb, and postoperative ptosis.^[22]

The mentioned biometric changes may affect IOL power calculation in patients who need cataract surgery and IOL implantation combined with or after glaucoma surgery. For instance, every 0.1-mm change in AL leads to an approximately 0.25-D change in IOL power in an average eye. This error declines to 0.18 D in a very long eye (30 mm eye) and increases to 0.38 D in a very short eye (20 mm eye). Additionally, 1.00-D change in corneal power leads to a 1.00-D change in IOL power.^[5] Accurate ACD measurement is important for IOL power calculation using the Haigis, Holladay II or Olsen formulas. Using the Haigis formula in an eye with an AL of 23.5 mm and a mean keratometry of 44.00 D, a difference in ACD of 0.12 mm would result in a change of 0.06 D in the target refractive error for a posterior chamber IOL.

The most important implication of biometric changes after trabeculectomy is its effect on refractive outcome of previous, combined, and future cataract surgery. Changes in ACD are of small amount and short lived thus it is not likely to affect the IOL power calculation; however, reported changes in AL and keratometry are of sufficient magnitude to affect refractive prediction of cataract surgery. To achieve the best refractive outcome in these patients, it is better to delay cataract surgery and lens implantation if possible until AL and keratometry changes stabilize. In addition, it is preferable to measure biometric parameters using non-contact optical biometry method instead of contact ultrasound biometry for IOL power calculation in such cases.

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Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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