Intra-ocular pressure variation associated with the wear of scleral lenses of different diameters.

Michaud L\textsuperscript{1}, Samaha D\textsuperscript{2}, Giasson CJ\textsuperscript{3}.

Abstract

PURPOSE:
To evaluate the variation of intra-ocular pressure during scleral lens wear, and the influence of the lens diameter on the results.

METHODS:
This is a prospective, randomized study performed on Caucasian subjects (16 F; 5 M), aged 24.7 ± 4.1 y.o. A diurnal variation pattern (IOPg) was established, then, transpalpebral IOP (IOPt) was taken before and during SL wear. One eye, randomly fitted with a 15.8 diameter SL (L1), was compared to the fellow eye, fitted with an 18 mm SL of the same design, thickness and material (L2). Anterior segment tomography was taken pre-and after lens removal.

RESULTS:
Baseline IOPg (L1:15.2 ± 3.1 mm HG; L2: 15.1 +/- 2.8 mm) did not reveal significant diurnal variations. Wearing L1, IOPt rose from 10.1 ± 1.9 mm HG to 14.4 ± 5.5 mm HG after 4.5 ± 0.3 hrs, while with L2, it rose from 9.2 ± 2.1 mm HG to 14.4 ± 4.8 mm Hg. This difference is statistically significant based on time but not on lenses. Anterior segment parameters did not vary except for the anterior chamber volume (L1: -1.53 ± 7.61 mm\textsuperscript{3}; L2: -3.47 ± 6.4 mm\textsuperscript{3}), and for the corneal thickness (+2.1% with L1 and L2).

CONCLUSION:
These results suggest that, as evaluated with a non-standard transpalpebral methodology, IOP during scleral lens wear may be increased in average by 5 mm Hg, regardless of the lens diameter. More work is needed to confirm if practitioners should be warned when using SL on populations at risk for glaucoma.

KEYWORDS:
Glaucoma; Intra-ocular pressure; Scleral lenses; Transpalpebral tonometry

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