

Global Pediatric Ophthalmology Congress

June 06-07, 2016 London, UK



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Challenging the standard of care for pediatric cataract surgery

For over a decade the state of the art pediatric cataract surgery has required vitrectorhexis and anterior vitrectomy to avoid opacification of the visual axis. This paper will explain the rationale and methods for planned posterior capsulotomy with posterior optic capture into Berger's space without vitrectomy in the pediatric eye as originally described as far back as 1991. This paper will contend that advantages include not only a zero rate of visual axis opacity due to proliferation of lens epithelial cells but a quieter eye without lens epithelial cell transformation and metaplasia which cause lens decentration, phimosis and whitening of the anterior capsule. There is potential for reducing the incidence of subsequent congenital cataract glaucoma and retinal tears and detachment which may follow when the trabecular meshwork is not burdened with elements of vitreous and the vitreous base is stabilized by the posterior placement of the lens without violating the posterior segment's integrity. Additionally the bag and sulcus remains available for secondary refractive implantation later in life. The recent infant aphakia trial's complications seen with pseudophakia are not unlike complications seen in adult eyes whose surgery is complicated by vitreous loss. The author has 5 years' experience with this technique with excellent outcomes. Rabbit studies will be underway; an excellent model for pediatric cataract. This paper will describe the literature documenting safety. Surgical methods of accomplishing this goal, even for the low volume surgeon, with modalities not in common use today will be described.

Biography

Lisa Brothers Arbisser teaches Cataract and Anterior Segment Surgery worldwide and is a Princeton University Graduate. She is an Adjunct Associate Professor at University of Utah Moran Eye Center. She authors, edits and reviews textbook chapters, journal articles and the American Academy online news network, Focal Points and has two regular journal columns. Her Residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics prepared her to specialize in refractive and complex cataract surgery, both adult and pediatric. She has been for years on the Best Doctors list nationally, was voted to the top 50 opinion leaders in cataract and refractive surgery by the readership of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Today (CRST) and was chosen as one of the 250 leading innovators in the field of premium IOL implant surgery by the editors of Premier Surgeon. She serves on the Editorial Board of CRST and Eye World and pens a quarterly column for each. She serves on the Cataract Committee for the AAO Online and Education Network and is the Cataract Editor for Focal Points.

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