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2-year data: Canaloplasty deserves consideration as blebless option

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San Diego—Canaloplasty, a technique that combines elements of deep sclerotomy, suture trabeculectomy, and viscocanalostomy, reduces IOP by draining aqueous internally without a bleb, and it could be an emerging surgical option to consider for patients with glaucoma, according to Reay H. Brown, MD, Atlanta Ophthalmology Associates, Atlanta.

The non-penetrating approach to cannulating Schlemm's canal enhances convention outflow of the vitreous through viscodilation and suture distention.

Dr. Brown presented 2-year follow-up data on 127 patients who have open-angle glaucoma. Overall average postoperative IOP was 16 mm Hg (± 4.2 mm Hg) compared with a preoperative baseline of 23.6 mm Hg (± 4.8 mm Hg).

Suture tension appears to be the key to success with this procedure. Patients with minimal suture tension as determined by ultrasound had pressure reduced to an average of 18.3 mm Hg (± 4.2 mm Hg) or 20%, and those with higher suture tension had pressure reduced to 15.7 mm Hg (± 3.1 mm Hg), or 31%.

"So, suture tension does seem to be important," Dr. Brown said.

The average number of medications being used by the patients dropped from 1.9 (± 0.8) preoperatively to 0.5 (± 0.8) postoperatively.

The main complication was failure to place the suture or fully cannulate the canal, which was observed in 19 patients. But other complications were minor and few, and no patients had choroidal detachment, hemorrhage, or endopthalmitis.

"This procedure may not lower pressures as well as trabeculectomy, although we don't have that data. But the average postoperative pressure within this group of patients, encompassing multiple doctors and multiple sites, was 16 mm Hg, and patients were on about one-half the medications they were preoperatively. There were few complications, no bleb, and no mytomycin," Dr. Brown said.

"This is a great option to consider to in patients who don't need to reach an ultra-low IOP," he added. "I do think that achieving a pressure of 16 [mm Hg] without making a hole in the eye is a great thing."

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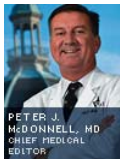

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