

Excimer Laser Surgery

This technique has been extensively investigated in the US but the prolonged FDA trials meant that it was not available to the public in general. However elsewhere in the world, it had taken the ophthalmic community by storm. It offers interesting possibilities of correcting myopia, astigmatism and hypermetropia.

Phakic Implant Techniques

- Danger of cataract formation and corneal decompensation
- Myopic Anterior Chambers lens implantation
- Iris supported implant e.g Worst
- Posterior Chamber Phakic Implants

Clear Lens Extraction and Implantation

- Difficulty of predicting the refractive outcome from standard IOL formulae, risk of retinal detachment and thinner sclera.
- This was investigated by the author who performed the first series of cases in Singapore and had a paper published in the Asia Pacific Journal.

Multifocal Lens Implantation

The use of a different multifocal implant offered some hope to those afflicted by myopia and presbyopia. In instances where small incision phacoemulsification surgery is carried out and the lens properly implanted good bifocal vision was attained. However the larger implant size, narrow dioptre range and diminished contrast sensitivity made it less than ideal at this time. A foldable multifocal implant may be on the way.

The evolving field of refractive surgery is now coming of age and modern technology is making some of these techniques easier for the average ophthalmologist to become involved. In the United States, this new field of surgery is beginning to form the main stay of many an Ophthalmologist livelihood. With cutbacks in reimbursements for cataract surgery some US Surgeons are giving up cataract surgery altogether and doing full-time refractive surgery. We in this part of the world are in some ways fortunate as there are lots more blinding eye conditions that require our attention. So for the time being, refractive surgery will be a past time - hopefully with no political upheavals!

Recent advances in Ophthalmology were reviewed and possible advances in the future considered. The increasing commercialization of medical practice and the erosion of ethical values in the profession are indeed disturbing developments. Ophthalmologists have not escaped from these undesirable elements in our practice, and they are urged to reassess the old world values and human consideration and to reconfirm their adherence to these and not to fall to avarice and greed.