

## Goat eye integrated with soap pellet as cataractous lens for phaco emulsification training: A thread to catch up the learning curve during pandemic

Dear Editor,

Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has created a major distortion across the integral functioning of every other field related to health care. Nevertheless, it has also impacted residential training in ophthalmology since the number of outpatient department visits, inpatient admissions, number of camps, and surgeries have drastically gone down.<sup>[1]</sup> Being a well-known fact that precision of ophthalmic microsurgical practice improves with numbers performed, various alternative methods are devised by teaching hospitals to overcome the concern of decreasing surgical numbers. Hence, we decided to continue our phaco-emulsification training with animal models by using soap pellet as cataractous lens because of economical ease and availability.

Goat eyes were preferred for practice,<sup>[2]</sup> which was wrapped with gauze piece and was loaded on the mortierial head. A superior tunnel of 8 mm was made at 12 0'clock and anterior chamber entry was made with keratome. At 9 0'clock a clear corneal entry was made, followed by staining the anterior capsule with trypan blue with subsequent injection of visco-elastic. At 6 0'clock position a sideport was made, and depending upon the comfort of trainee a capsulorhexis of 5.5 mm either through the sideport or clear corneal entry. Phacoemulsification of central nucleus was done forming crater thus creating the required space. Soap pellets of 7.5 mm diameter was made using trephine, introduced through 12 0'clock tunnel and sutured thus making it ready for use.

For practice we made a side port at 11 0'clock position and the nucleus was initially trephined followed by cracking and emulsified subsequently. Trainees confident in divide and conquer can go ahead with stop and chop, direct chop techniques.

We believe this technique addresses the decreasing availability of human lens delivered via SICS for use due to low surgical numbers,<sup>[3]</sup> which is practiced widely across many centers for similar purposes.

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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