

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Outcomes and Associated Factors of Cataract Surgery Among Adults Attending a Tertiary Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Cherinet M Markos Lemlem T Tamrat Mulusew A Asferaw (1)

Department of Ophthalmology, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia **Background:** Visual outcomes and factors associated with cataract surgery vary from country to country and within countries. This study aimed to evaluate associated factors and visual outcomes following cataract surgery among adults attending Saint Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College (SPHMMC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Patients and Methods: We conducted a prospective, longitudinal study of consecutive adult patients scheduled for cataract surgery between May 2018 and April 2019. Preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative data were collected and analyzed using SPSS version 23.0. Descriptive statistics and binary logistic regressions were used to analyze the data. We used World Health Organization (WHO) criteria for cataract surgery outcome assessment as a reference for comparison.

Results: Three hundred fourteen eyes of 314 participants (mean age 64.16±8.83 SD, 52% females, 44% from rural location) were included in the study. Most, 283 (90.1%) had preoperative visual acuity less than 6/60. At final follow-up visit (6 to 8 weeks), best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was good (≥6/18) in 215 (68.5%), borderline (<6/18−6/60) in 63 (20.1%) and poor (<6/60) in 36 (11.5%) eyes. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) [OR = 4.57, 95% CI [1.12−17.24], p=0.03] and preoperative astigmatism [OR = 3.22, 95% CI [1.25−8.33], p=0.01] were significantly associated with poor postoperative visual outcome.

Conclusion: While the majority of patients had good postoperative BCVA following cataract surgery, the percentage of patients with poor visual outcomes was higher than the WHO standard. Greater attention to pre-existing co-morbidities such as retinal disease and high astigmatism could improve outcomes by optimizing patient selection and surgical approach.

Keywords: cataract surgery, Ethiopia, factors, outcome

Introduction

Unoperated cataract remains one of the most common causes of blindness responsible for around 50% of all global blindness. More than 90% of cataract-associated blindness is found in low and middle-income countries. Achieving effective cataract surgery skills and the implementation of surgical programs are the most critical tools toward alleviating cataract blindness. It is important to assess cataract surgery outcomes in developing countries, where postoperative visual function following cataract surgery lag behind minimum international standards. Research has demonstrated a considerable variability of post-operative visual outcomes both

Correspondence: Lemlem T Tamrat Saint Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, PO Box: 1271, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel +251-923-34-68-00

Fax +251-112-77-47-87 Email lemlem.tamrat0@gmail.com between and within countries. A number of factors may explain these differences, including surgical skill, ocular co-morbidities, patient selection, postoperative management and surgical facilities.³

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that poor visual acuity (V/A < 6/60) or borderline visual acuity (V/A < 6/18-6/60) following cataract surgery should not exceed more than 5% each after best available correction.³

Many studies reported that 30–40% of eyes undergoing cataract surgery have a postoperative BCVA less than 6/ 60, which does not meet the individual's daily visual demand in many developing countries.^{4,5} Some of the reasons given for such poor visual outcomes have included pre-existing ocular co-morbidities, surgical complications, limited surgical skill, inadequate postsurgical optical correction and improper preoperative biometry measurement.⁶ Additional factors associated with poor visual outcomes following cataract surgery have included older age, female gender, lower education attainment, rural residence, and treatment at government hospitals or through free surgery campaigns.⁶

Recent large reviews from high-income countries have shown improved quality of life after cataract surgery.^{7,8} Despite many developments and advancements in the surgical management of cataract, there is still significant concern regarding poor visual outcomes after cataract surgery in many developing countries. The percentage of poor visual outcomes ranges from 11.4% to as high as 44.0%.^{9–16}

Ideally, standards of care should be firmly established in order to improve cataract surgical outcomes globally. Assessment of cataract surgery outcomes and the factors associated with those outcomes is a necessary step towards improving cataract management in developing countries. The aims of this study, then, were to determine visual outcomes following manual small incision and phacoemulsification cataract surgery and to analyze factors associated with poor postoperative visual outcome at SPHMMC, a tertiary eye care and training center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Patients and Methods

Study Design and Setting

We performed a prospective, longitudinal study on consecutive patients who underwent cataract surgery between May 2018 and April 2019, at SPHMMC; a tertiary eye care and training center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

From the targeted 322 eyes, 314 eyes were accepted for the study while the remaining 8 participants were excluded due to lost on follow-up. The study was conducted among consecutive adults aged 50 years and older who were diagnosed with a visually significant cataract and scheduled for surgery.

Data Collection Instrument and Procedure

Patient data was collected by residents in the SPHMMC ophthalmology department using a standardized-structured questionnaire (Supplementary Material), which was adapted from WHO recommended cataract surgery record form with some modifications to fit into our set up. Pretest was performed before the actual data collection time to minimize bias. We used a local language translators when required. Neither the operating ophthalmologist nor the operating resident were informed about each case under investigation and the actual data was collected by the assisting resident.

A total of 8 consulting ophthalmologists with variable degree of experience and 6 ophthalmology residents were participated in this study. Written and signed informed consent was obtained from each patient before the surgery. Sociodemographic data including age, gender, address, educational status, marital status, occupation, ethnicity and smoking, and alcohol consumption were obtained prior to surgery. For all patients, we recorded snellen visual acuity, non-contact air puff and/or Goldman applanation intraocular pressure (IOP), slit lamp examination of the anterior segment and of the posterior segment using a 90 D Volk lens after pupil dilation with tropicamide 1%. Every patient was checked for common systemic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. Ocular biometry measurement and the availability of proper intraocular lens were also determined prior to the procedure. For those with dense cataract obscuring visualization, B-scan ultrasound was used to assess the posterior segment.

Topical tetracaine followed by 5% povidone iodine drops were instilled into the eye in the operating theatre prior to surgery. Patients had either retro-bulbar anesthesia (RBA) or sub-tenon anesthesia (STA) injection of lidocaine 2% with or without adrenaline and cataract extraction and lens implant by either phacoemulsification or

manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS) according to the preference of the surgeon.

For all MSICS cases, the wound was located superiorly and we use crescent blade bevel up with size 2.8 to 3.2mm for tunnel formation and keratome blade 3.2mm size angled 45 degree to enter anterior chamber (AC) and enlarge internal edge of the wound. The average external wound size was 6–7 mm depending on the expected nucleus size. Sideport 45 degree was used to make paracentesis. We implanted Polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) rigid intraocular lenses.

For all phacoemulsification procedures we used MEDISONIC, CHAXU model phacoemulsification machine and the same keratome and sideport blades were used to make stab incisions on the cornea. For these group of patients hydrophobic we inserted acrylic foldable intraocular lens (IOL) implant.

During both surgical procedures, either dispersive or cohesive ophthalmic visco-surgical devices (OVD) were used, depending on the availability at the time of surgery.

Sub-conjunctival gentamicin-dexamethasone injection was given at the end of surgery. Finally, the operated eye was covered after instilling topical Ciprofloxacin 0.3% and Dexamethasone 0.1% eye drops. All details of the procedures and intraoperative complications, if any, were documented on the data collection sheet 2–5 minutes following the procedure by the assisting resident. The frequency of use of postoperative topical Dexamethasone 0.1% and Ciprofloxacin 0.3% were determined by the attending ophthalmologist in the light of postoperative findings.

Snellen visual acuity, intraocular pressure measurement, anterior and posterior segment examinations were documented on postoperative day one, at 1 –2 weeks and at a final visit, 6–8 weeks postoperatively. At the last visit almost all participants underwent refraction (objectively by an autorefractor then subjectively by ophthalmology residents) to determine the final postoperative BCVA. The visual outcomes of patients were categorized according to WHO criteria of postoperative visual acuity outcome classification.

Operational Definition

WHO classification of visual acuity for cataract surgery outcome was used in the study.³

Good Outcome: When BCVA after cataract surgery is 6/18 or better (6/6–6/18)

Borderline Outcome: When BCVA after cataract surgery is <6/18-6/60

Poor Outcome: When BCVA after cataract surgery is worse than 6/60 (<6/60 –light perception)

Data Quality Assurance and Ethical Clearance

The principal investigator and advisors did regular supervision to monitor the accuracy and completeness of data. The study was conducted in accordance with Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the ethical review board of SPHMMC. The privacy and confidentiality of all participants were secured and signed informed written consent was obtained from all study participants.

Statistical Analysis

The collected data was entered twice, carefully cleaned and checked and analyzed using SPSS version 23.0 (www.ibm.com/products/SPSS-Statistics). Descriptive statistics such as frequency, distribution and central tendency measures were used to summarize the descriptive part of the study. A sample *t*-test was used to compare means of dependent and independent variables. Cross tabulation and binary logistic regressions were applied. For variables with p-value less than 0.20%, univariable logistic regression and multivariable logistic regression analyses were conducted to adjust association between independent variables and poor BCVA at last visit. P-value less than 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

Results

Three hundred fourteen eyes of 314 patients were included with a response rate of 97.5%. The study subjects have mean age of 64.16 ± 8.83 years (range, 50–90 years) (Table 1).

Before cataract surgery there were 283 (90.1%) patients with visual acuity <3/60. One hundred forty three (45.5%) of the patients had other ocular comorbidities and nearly one third (30.9%) had systemic diseases (Table 2).

MSICS was performed in 284 (90.4%) and intraocular lens implantation in 98.4% of eyes. Posterior capsule rupture with vitreous loss (19 eyes, 6.1%) was the most frequently encountered complication intra-operatively (Table 3).

The mean follow-up period was 7.5 weeks (range, 6–8 weeks). There was a significant improvement in vision after surgery (p=0.01) in a majority of the study participants. At the final visit, a good visual outcome was

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Table I Sociodemographic Characteristics of Adults Who Received Cataract Surgery at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, 2018-2019 (n=314)

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Variables	Category	N (%)
Age (Years)	50–59 60–69 70–79 80–90	89 (28.3) 120 (38.2) 91 (29.0) 14 (4.5)
Sex	Male Female	150 (47.8) 164 (52.2)
Address	Urban Rural	176 (56.1) 138 (43.9)
Educational Status	Unable to read and write Able to read and write Primary School (1–8th) Secondary School (9–12th) Diploma and above	141 (44.9) 50 (15.9) 36 (11.5) 49 (15.6) 38 (12.1)
Religion	Orthodox Christian Muslim Protestant Catholic Others	140 (44.6) 110 (35.0) 49 (15.6) 8 (2.5) 7 (2.2)
Occupation	Retired Government employee Farmer Private employee Others	196 (62.4) 67 (21.3) 34 (10.8) 16 (5.1) 1 (0.3)
Marital status	Single Married Divorced/Separated Widowed	55 (17.5) 233 (74.2) 15 (4.8) 11 (3.50)

achieved in 61.1% and 68.5% of patients before and after best correction, respectively. On the other hand, at the same last visit 13.1% and 11.5% had visual acuity <6/60 before and after best correction, respectively (Table 4).

Two hundred thirty seven (75.5%) patients experienced one or more complications in the immediate postoperative period. The complications include striate keratopathy in 153 (48.7%), corneal edema in 115 (36.6%), raised IOP in 126 (42.3%) and hyphema in 19 (6.10) patients.

At the last postoperative visit, the mean IOP was $13.76 \pm$ 3.67 mmHg (range 6-36 mmHg) and only 11 (3.5%) patients had an $IOP \ge 22$ mmHg. Some of the late postoperative complications include pseudophakic bullous keratopathy (PBK) in 15 (4.8%), posterior capsular opacification (PCO) in 9 (2.8%) and cystoid macular edema in 5 (1.6%) patients.

Table 2 Preoperative Clinical Characteristics of Adults Who Received Cataract Surgery at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, 2018-2019 (n=314)

Variables	Category	N (%)
Visual acuity	≥ 6/18 < 6/18 and ≥ 6/60 < 6/60 to LP	I (0.33) 30 (9.57) 283 (90.10)
Preoperative IOP (mmHg)	6 to 21 ≥ 22	286 (91.1) 28 (8.90)
Eye Operated	Right Left	154 (49.0) 160 (51.0)
Surgeon	Ophthalmologist Resident	257 (81.80) 57 (18.20)
Preoperative cataract	Mature Immature Hyper-mature	273 (86.90) 30 (9.60) 11 (3.50)
Ocular co-morbidities	Glaucoma AMD Pseudo-exfoliation Corneal Opacity	18 (5.70) 13 (4.10) 101 (32.20) 11 (3.50)
Systemic co-morbidities	Diabetes Mellitus Hypertension HIV/AIDS Cardiac Disease Bronchial Asthma Others	46 (14.60) 68 (21.70) 3 (1.00) 2 (0.67) 2 (0.67) 2 (0.67)

Abbreviations: AMD, age-related macular degeneration; HIV/AIDS, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; LP, light perception; IOP, intraocular pressure.

A secondary surgical procedure was performed for those individuals who required additional surgical intervention. Cortical wash out was done in 4 (1.3%) and hyphema was surgically treated in 3 (1.0%) patients. Yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) capsulotomy was performed for dense PCO in 5 (1.6%) of eyes.

Applying univariate logistic regression, age, pseudoexfoliation, glaucoma, preoperative IOP, AMD, presence of intraoperative complications and preoperative K reading/ astigmatism were significantly associated with poor postoperative BCVA. With multivariate logistic regression, AMD (OR = 4.57, 95% CI [1.12–17.24], p=0.03) and preoperative astigmatism (OR = 3.22, 95% CI [1.25-8.33], p=0.01) were significantly associated with poor BCVA (Table 5).

Discussion

In this study, we evaluated the overall visual outcomes and factors associated with poor post-operative BCVA

Table 3 Intraoperative Characteristics of Adults Who Received Cataract Surgery at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, 2018–2019 (n=314)

Variables	Category	N (%)
Anesthesia type	Sub-Tenon's anesthesia	172
		(54.60)
	Retrobulbar anesthesia	142
		(45.40)
Anesthesia	Yes	4 (1.30)
complications		
	No	310
		(98.7)
Type of surgery	MSICS	284
		(90.40)
	Phacoemulsification	30 (9.60)
Wound section	Scleral Tunnel	284
		(90.40)
	Clear corneal	30 (9.60)
Capsulotomy	Can opener	284
, ,	'	(90.40)
	ccc	30 (9.60)
Place of intraocular lens	Posterior chamber (PC)	304
	, ,	(96.80)
	Anterior chamber (AC)	5 (1.60)
	Surgical aphakia	5 (1.60)
Intraocular lens	PMMA	280
material		(89.20)
	Acrylic	29 (9.20)
Intraoperative	PC rupture with vitreous	19 (6.10)
complications	loss	
	Premature AC entry	6 (1.90)
	Retained cortical matter	4 (1.34)
	Iridodialysis	5 (1.60)
	Zonular dialysis	3 (1.00)
	Wound leak	17 (5.40)
	Others	I (0.33)

Abbreviations: AC, anterior chamber; CCC, continuous curvilinear capsulor-hexis; MSICS, manual small incision cataract surgery; PC, posterior chamber; PMMA, poly methyl methacrylate.

following cataract surgery. Though there was significant improvement in visual acuity, our results suggest that at 6–8 weeks following surgery, a majority of eyes achieved a BCVA below the minimum WHO standard for cataract surgery outcomes (≥6/18 in 90% with <5% having vision less than 6/60).³

The number of patients with good visual outcome in our study was also lower than that found in a study

Table 4 Preoperative and Postoperative Vision of Adults After Cataract Surgery at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, 2018–2019 (n=314)

Time of Vision	VA Category N (%)			
Measurement	>6/18	6/18–6/60	<6/60	
Pre-operative time (Before surgery)	I (0.3)	30 (9.6)	283 (90.1)	
Day I after surgery	85 (27.1)	97 (30.9)	132 (42.0)	
Week I-2 after surgery	137 (43.6)	115 (36.6)	62 (19.7)	
Week 6-8 after surgery	192 (61.1)	81 (25.8)	41 (13.1)	
(Before correction)				
Week 6–8 after surgery (After correction) (BCVA)	215 (68.5)	63 (20.1)	36 (11.5)	

Abbreviations: BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity; VA, visual acuity.

performed in Nigerian; where good BCVA was achieved in 78.8% of cases.¹⁷ A Kenyan study similarly reported superior outcomes (uncorrected VA of 6/18 or better in 81.8% with only 2.4% poor outcomes).¹⁸

However, our findings are comparable with a study conducted in Jimma (south west Ethiopia) where good visual outcomes were achieved in 70.4% of cases. 19 Comparable results were also seen across the spectrum of visual outcomes in a report from Trinidad and Tobago, where good, borderline and poor visual outcomes were 67.0%, 21.0% and 12%, respectively.²⁰ Poor visual outcomes following extracapsular cataract extraction (ECCE) with IOL have been reported in 9.7-15.5% of operated eyes in multiple hospital-based reports from Nigeria.^{21–23} Another study from Gondar (northwest Ethiopia) showed good, borderline and poor visual outcomes in 26.6%, 28.9% and 44.5% of operated eyes, respectively.²⁴ That we saw relatively better outcomes in our study might be due to the fact that the majority of surgeries were performed by senior ophthalmologists and the final vision assessment being at 6-8 weeks (versus 1-4 weeks for two-thirds of patients in the Gondar study). The outcomes in our study were generally better than those from a study in India, where fair outcomes were achieved in only 50% of cases²⁵ and also compared to a study from Nepal, where good, borderline and poor visual outcomes were found in 41.3%, 45%, and 13.7%, respectively.²⁶ An additional study from Malawi demonstrated poor outcomes in 19.5% of cases, a number much higher that found in our study.²⁷

During the surgical procedure, one or more complications were encountered in 29 (9.20%) eyes and, posterior capsule

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Table 5 Factors Associated with Poor Visual Outcome Among Adults After Cataract Surgery at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, 2018-2019 (n=314)

Variables BCVA Poor		COR (95% CI)	P-value	AOR (95% CI)	P-value	
	Good to Borderline	Univariate Logistic Regression		Multivariate Logistic Regression		
Age						<u> </u>
50–59	6	83	1.00			
60–69	14	106	0.18 (0.04,0.75)	0.019	0.83 (0.28,2.46)	0.63
70–79	12	79	0.33 (0.09,1.19)	0.091	0.65 (0.22,1.93)	0.55
80–90	4	10	0.38 (0.10,1.42)	0.470	0.34 (0.06,1.71)	0.29
Sex						
Male	15	135	1.00			
Female	21	143	0.75 (0.37,1.53)	0.43		
Address						
Urban	17	159	1.00			
Rural	19	119	0.67 (0.33,1.35)	0.25		
Preoperative IC	P (mml	Hg)		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
6–21	29	257	1.00			
≥ 22	7	21	2.95 (1.15,7.54)	0.02	1.71 (0.53,5.49)	0.36
Glaucoma				1		1
Yes	4	14	2.35 (0.73,7.59)	0.15	2.12 (0.49,9.09)	0.31
No	32	264	1.00			
AMD	•	1		.	,	- 1
Yes	5	8	5.44 (1.67,17.67)	0.005	4.57 (1.12,17.24)	0.03*
No	31	270	1.00			
Psudoexfoliation	n					·
Yes	17	84	2.06 (1.02,4.17)	0.04	1.81 (0.80,4.00)	0.15
No	19	194	1.00			
Dry eye						•
Yes	8	51	1.27 (0.54,2.95)	0.57		
No	28	227	1.00			
Systemic diseas	e	1	•	.	,	- 1
Yes	10	87	0.84 (0.39,1.82)	0.66		
No	26	191				
Surgeon				•		•
Resident	4	53	1.88 (0.64,5.55)	0.25		
	32	225	1.00			
Ophthalmologist						
Anesthesia						
RBA	14	128	1.00			
STA	22	150	1.35 (0.66,2.77)	0.41		

(Continued)

Table 5 (Continued).

Variables BCV		1	COR (95% CI)	P-value	AOR (95% CI)	P-value
	Poor	Good to Borderline	Univariate Logistic Regression		Multivariate Logistic Regression	
Intraoperative						
Yes	7	22	2.80 (1.10,7.14)	0.03	2.17 (0.73,6.25)	0.16
Complications						<u> </u>
No Preoperative K I	29 Reading	256 / A stigmatism	1.00			
-0.75 to -2 -2.25 to -7.38	26 9	247 25	1.00 3.44 (1.44,8.33)	0.005	3.22 (1.25,8.33)	0.01*
Postoperative A	stigmati	ism		<u> </u>		
-0.75 to -2 -2.25 to -6	6 2	184 44	1.00 1.40 (0.27,7.14)	0.69		

Note: *Statistically significant (Multivariate regression).

Abbreviations: AOR, adjusted odds ratio; AMD, age-related macular degeneration; BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity; COR, crude odds ratio; IOP, intraocular pressure; K, keratometer; RBA, retro-bulbar anesthesia; STA, sub-tenon anesthesia.

rupture with vitreous loss occurred in 19 (6.10%) cases. This was the most common complication followed by premature entry into the anterior chamber in 6 (1.90%) eyes and Iridodialysis in 5 (1.60%) eyes. One possible reason for a relatively high complication rate in our series is the role of senior residents in performing cataract surgery at our center and the overall nationwide questionable quality of ophthalmologist training. This finding is comparable with the study done in India, where the rate of intraoperative complications were 22 (8.8%) cases.²⁸ This also falls in line with a study done in western India in 2003, where intraoperative complications from MSICS were seen in 8.1% of cases and moderate to severe complications like posterior capsular rent and vitreous loss were seen in 5.02% of surgeries.²⁹ Nearly similar rate of complication was reported from Jimma, Ethiopia, where 18 of 200 (9.0%) participants had intraoperative complications. ¹⁹

A low intraoperative complication rate of 1.9% following high volume cataract surgery was reported from Aravind, India in 2003.³⁰ A similar study from Kenya reported that only 6 of 325 (1.6%) surgeries experienced intraoperative complication.¹⁸

There are multiple factors associated with poor surgical outcome following cataract surgery which differ from country to country and even within the same country in different setups. Univariate logistic regression for factors associated with poor visual outcome revealed that age,

preoperative ocular co-morbidities (preoperative elevated IOP, glaucoma, AMD, pseudoexfoliation), intraoperative complications and preoperative astigmatism were significantly associated with poor postoperative BCVA. Multivariate logistic regression indicated that AMD and preoperative astigmatism were significantly associated with poor visual outcome after cataract surgery. This finding is similar to the results of a study from Malaysia, in which ocular co-morbidities were significantly associated with no improvement in visual acuity following cataract surgery. Similar results have been reported in India and Trinidad and Tobago. The significant association of poor visual outcome with increasing age in our study has also been found in other earlier studies. 17,32,33

Conclusion

In our study visual outcome following cataract operation was below the standard set by WHO. Age-related macular degeneration and preoperative astigmatism were significantly associated with poor visual outcome. Greater attention to pre-existing co-morbidities such as retinal disease and high astigmatism could improve outcomes by optimizing patient selection and surgical approach.

Abbreviations

AC, Anterior chamber; AOR, Adjusted odds ratio; AMD, Age-related macular degeneration; BCVA, Best-corrected

visual acuity; CCC, continuous curvilinear capsulorhexis; CI, Confidence interval; COR, Crude odds ratio; ECCE, extra-capsular cataract extraction; HIV/AIDS, Human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; IOL, Intraocular lens; IOP, Intraocular Pressure; K, keratometer; LP, Light perception; MSICS, Manual small incision cataract surgery; OVD, ophthalmic visco-surgical devices PBK, Pseudophakic bullous keratopathy; PC, Posterior chamber; PCO, Posterior capsular opacity; PMMA, Polymethyl methacrylate; RBA, Retro-bulbar anesthesia; SPHMMC, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College; SPSS, Statistical package for social Sciences; STA, Sub-tenon anesthesia; UCVA, Uncorrected visual acuity; VA, Visual acuity; WHO, World Health Organization; YAG, Yttrium-aluminum-garnet.

Data Sharing Statement

The data is available from the corresponding author if requested in the form of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS).

Ethics Approval and Informed Consent

The study was approved by SPHMMC IRB directorate and informed written consent was taken from each study participant and all authors read the manuscript and agreed for publication.

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Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest for this work.

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