



# Real-world Case Series of iStent or iStent *inject* Trabecular Micro-Bypass Stents Combined with Cataract Surgery

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** This real-world retrospective case series assessed 12-month effectiveness and safety following implantation of iStent® or iStent *inject*® trabecular micro-bypass with cataract surgery.

**Methods:** Consecutive patients were implanted with either iStent (comprising 1 stent) or iStent *inject* (comprising 2 stents), together with cataract surgery. Most patients had primary open-angle glaucoma. Effectiveness outcomes through 12 months included intraocular pressure (IOP) and glaucoma medications. Proportional analyses were completed for eyes achieving IOP ≤ 18 mmHg, IOP ≤ 15 mmHg, or IOP reduction ≥ 20% from preoperative; and eyes on 0 medications or ≥ 2 medications. Safety outcomes included adverse events, secondary surgeries, visual acuity, and visual fields.

**Results:** This analysis included 137 eyes (67 iStent, 70 iStent *inject*) with cataract and mild to moderate glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Over 73% of eyes in both groups had early disease, and ~ 22% had prior glaucoma surgery.

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At 12 months postoperatively, mean IOP decreased from  $18.4 \pm 4.2$  mmHg to  $14.2 \pm 2.5$  mmHg in iStent eyes ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and from  $20.4 \pm 5.6$  mmHg to  $14.4 \pm 2.1$  mmHg in iStent *inject* eyes ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The IOP reduction was significantly greater for iStent *inject* eyes than iStent eyes (6.0 mmHg versus 4.2 mmHg reduction,  $p = 0.034$ ). Both groups had high proportions of patients achieving the 12-month IOP endpoints, although consistently greater proportions reached these endpoints after iStent *inject* than iStent: 95.7% versus 92.5% had IOP ≤ 18 mmHg, respectively; 74.3% versus 71.6% had IOP ≤ 15 mmHg, respectively; and 68.6% versus 62.7% had IOP reduction ≥ 20% from baseline, respectively. Mean medication burden at 12 months decreased from  $1.8 \pm 0.7$  to  $0.3 \pm 0.5$  medications in iStent eyes (84.0% reduction,  $p < 0.0001$ ), and from  $1.3 \pm 0.9$  to  $0.1 \pm 0.3$  medications in iStent *inject* eyes (94.7% reduction,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Significantly more iStent *inject* eyes were medication-free at 12 months than iStent eyes (92.9% versus 76.1% medication-free, respectively;  $p = 0.0068$ ). Favorable safety included few adverse events, no secondary glaucoma surgeries, and stable visual acuity and visual fields in both groups.

**Conclusion:** Significant and safe IOP and medication reductions were achieved through 12 months after iStent or iStent *inject* implantation with cataract surgery. iStent *inject* eyes

had greater absolute IOP reduction and more eyes medication-free versus iStent eyes.

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**Keywords:** Cataract; Glaucoma; Intraocular pressure; iStent; iStent *inject*; Microinvasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS); Second-generation; Stent; Trabecular micro-bypass

## INTRODUCTION

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness, affecting nearly 80 million people worldwide [1]. If untreated, glaucoma results in vision loss that is progressive, permanent, and inevitable. Current glaucoma medications, laser treatments, and surgeries aim to reduce intraocular pressure (IOP), the only treatment strategy proven to limit glaucoma development and progression. Medications are effective and reasonably safe, and they usually are the first step in treating glaucoma patients. However, medications can be associated with substantial side effects [2–4], ocular surface damage [5–7], financial costs [8–14], and limited effectiveness due to nonadherence in an estimated 30–80% of patients [15, 16]. Laser trabeculoplasty is modestly effective in reducing IOP, but its effectiveness wanes over time [17]. Standard glaucoma surgeries such as trabeculectomy and tube shunt implantation are highly effective in reducing IOP, but they have formidable safety risks, including significant vision loss and the need for reoperation, that preclude their widespread use, especially in milder glaucoma cases that may not warrant the risks of such surgeries [18–20]. Between these two ends of the treatment spectrum, there formerly was a large unaddressed middle ground, in which effective and safe intervention was not available.

Over the past 10 years, micro-invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) procedures have greatly augmented surgeons' available interventions for these more mild to moderate glaucoma patients, and increasingly even for more severe cases. The first United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved MIGS device, the iStent trabecular micro-bypass (containing one stent), and the recently FDA-approved

second-generation iStent *inject* (containing two stents) are both designed to create patent pathways through the trabecular meshwork, which is known to be a major site of resistance to aqueous fluid outflow and is a major contributor to elevated IOP in glaucoma [21]. By bypassing the trabecular meshwork (particularly the juxtacanalicular tissue) and allowing direct aqueous flow into Schlemm's canal, the facility of outflow can be increased and consequently IOP can decrease.

Both devices have been studied in a variety of surgical settings: for example, in both standalone and cataract combination surgeries, in eyes with mild to severe glaucoma severity, in randomized controlled trials as well as independent surgeon case series, in different types of glaucoma [including pseudoexfoliative glaucoma (PXG) and normal-tension glaucoma (NTG)] as well as ocular hypertension, and in single- or multi-stent use [22–45]. These studies have consistently demonstrated sizable reductions in IOP and medication burden, while also maintaining a high safety profile and limited postoperative care. Importantly, the IOP and medication reductions appear durable over the long term, which is especially crucial in light of lengthening life spans, the chronic nature of the disease, and the need for a favorable cost–benefit ratio. Stent implantation also appears to delay or eliminate the need for more invasive surgery, thereby having the potential to further reduce healthcare burden and costs over the long term. Not surprisingly, given this treatment paradigm, the iStent and iStent *inject* devices have garnered several robust health economics analyses [8–14] which have demonstrated favorable cost-effectiveness across multiple countries and healthcare models.

In addition to the substantive evidence base supporting the use of either iStent or iStent *inject*, a comparative study published by Guedes et al. analyzed both devices and showed significantly greater IOP reduction and fewer adverse events with iStent *inject* versus iStent [45]. Additionally, while both devices resulted in significant medication reductions from baseline, iStent *inject* produced a greater reduction than iStent. Similarly, the present manuscript includes consecutive cases of both iStent or

iStent *inject* implantation combined with cataract surgery. The cohort's inclusion of both implants within the same surgical setting and in the hands of the same surgeon allows us to evaluate each device without the confounding effects of different surgeons or different sites. To our knowledge, this is one of the first and largest datasets on the two devices in a single report, and it tracks outcomes through 1 year postoperatively.

## METHODS

### Study Design and Participants

This longitudinal retrospective study included all consecutive eyes implanted with either iStent or iStent *inject* with cataract surgery by a single glaucoma surgeon (DM) at a private practice in Australia. iStent surgeries took place from February 2014 to December 2015, and iStent *inject* surgeries occurred from February to December 2016. The choice of implant was based on availability in the Australian market.

Eligible patients had a diagnosis of glaucoma or ocular hypertension, cataract requiring surgery, follow-up data through 12 months postoperatively, and the need for IOP and/or medication reduction. Glaucoma diagnoses could include primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG), NTG, PXG, combined-mechanism glaucoma (CMG), and narrow-angle glaucoma (NAG; with open-angle configuration in area of stent implantation). Preoperative glaucoma severity was defined by visual field (VF) mean deviation using the Hodapp–Parrish–Anderson staging as mild (0 to  $-6$  dB), moderate ( $-6$  to  $-12$  dB), and severe (worse than  $-12$  dB) [46].

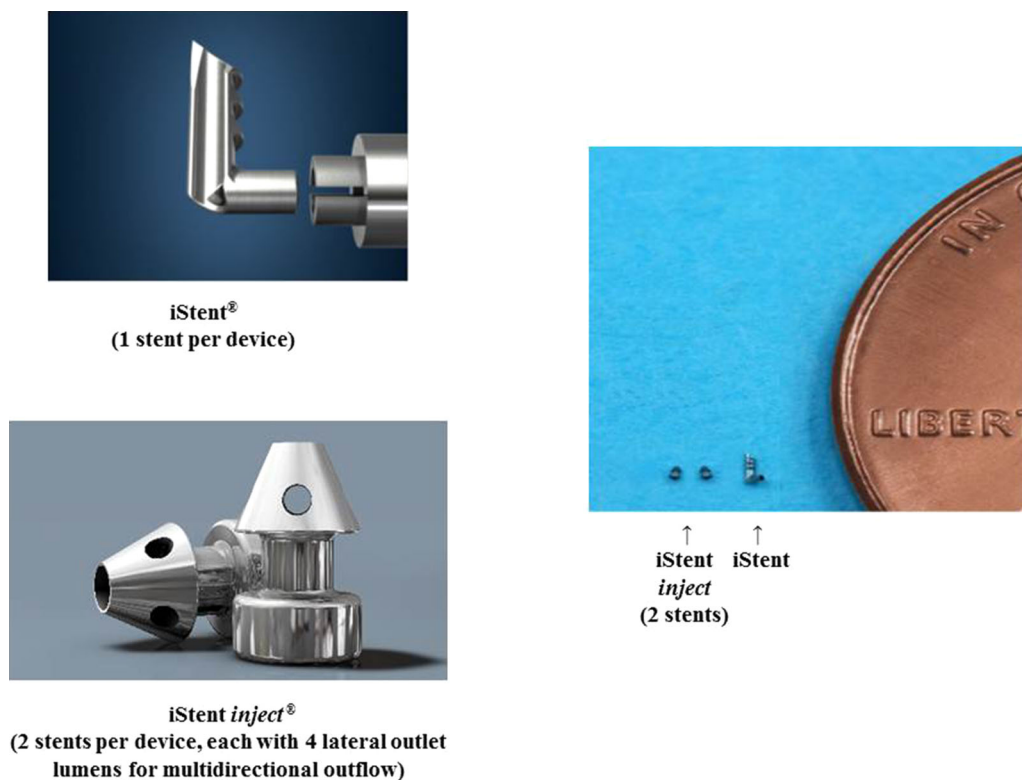
The degree of effectiveness through 12 months was characterized by the mean IOP and glaucoma medication burden. Proportional analyses were completed for eyes achieving IOP  $\leq 18$  mmHg, IOP  $\leq 15$  mmHg, or IOP reduction  $\geq 20\%$  from preoperative; and eyes on 0 medications or  $\geq 2$  medications. Safety outcomes included adverse events, secondary surgeries, VF, and best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA). IOP was measured by Goldmann applanation, and BCVA was measured using a

standard Snellen chart. Proper positioning of the iStent and iStent *inject* was verified by gonioscopy examination, which was performed during surgery and at all clinical examinations throughout follow-up.

The chi-square test and Student's *t* test were used for the analysis of categorical and numerical variables, respectively. A *p* value of 0.05 was set as the threshold for statistical significance. All procedures were in accordance with the medical advisory committees of both Hunter Valley Private Hospital and Hunter Eye Hospital, and with the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. Given that this was a retrospective outcomes analysis, including only patients from the surgeon's real-world clinical population who already had received treatment, formal clinical trial registration was not required.

### Device and Surgical Technique

The iStent and iStent *inject* trabecular microbypass devices are designed to create one or two patent bypasses, respectively, through the trabecular meshwork into Schlemm's canal. These bypasses facilitate aqueous outflow and thereby decrease IOP. The iStent trabecular microbypass consists of a single-use inserter preloaded with one biocompatible, non-ferromagnetic titanium stent having a length of 1.0 mm, height of 0.33 mm, and a "snorkel" bore diameter of 120  $\mu\text{m}$  (Fig. 1). The inserter is advanced ab internally through a small temporal clear corneal incision, thereby preserving ocular tissue in case other glaucoma surgery is needed in the future. The iStent *inject* trabecular microbypass consists of a single-use injector preloaded with two titanium stents, each having 230  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter, 360  $\mu\text{m}$  height, 80  $\mu\text{m}$  central lumen diameter, and four 50- $\mu\text{m}$  side outlets to allow for multidirectional outflow (Fig. 1). The stents are composed of biocompatible, non-ferromagnetic titanium, and each one is designed to carry the total amount of aqueous fluid produced by the human body (average 2.5  $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}$ ). With these characteristics, two iStent *inject* stents have been shown to provide arcs of aqueous flow spanning up to 6 clock hours in



**Fig. 1** iStent® and iStent inject® trabecular micro-bypass stents, with relative dimensions (image courtesy of Glaukos Corp.)

the canal. To implant the stents, the surgeon advances the injector through the existing phacoemulsification incision (i.e. no additional incision needed), then positions both stents through the trabecular meshwork into the Schlemm's canal in a single ocular entry. After surgery, patients in this study were treated with topical antibiotic for 1 week and topical steroid tapered over 4 weeks.

## RESULTS

### IOP and Medications

A total of 137 consecutive eyes with mild to moderate glaucoma and cataract and 12 months of follow-up were included. The iStent group ( $n = 67$ ) included predominantly eyes with POAG and PXG, and the iStent inject group ( $n = 70$ ) included mostly eyes with POAG, ocular hypertension, and NAG (with

open-angle configuration in area of stent implantation). Over 73% of eyes in both groups had early glaucoma, and approximately 22% of eyes had undergone prior glaucoma surgical or laser procedures. Complete preoperative parameters and demographics are shown in Table 1.

At 12 months postoperatively, mean IOP decreased from  $18.4 \pm 4.2$  mmHg to  $14.2 \pm 2.5$  mmHg in iStent eyes ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and from  $20.4 \pm 5.6$  mmHg to  $14.4 \pm 2.1$  mmHg in iStent inject eyes ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The IOP reduction was significantly greater for iStent inject eyes than iStent eyes (6.0 mmHg versus 4.2 mmHg reduction,  $p = 0.034$ ) (Fig. 2). At 1 year after surgery, the iStent and iStent inject groups both had high proportions of patients achieving the IOP effectiveness endpoints, although there was a consistent trend toward greater proportions with iStent inject than iStent: IOP  $\leq 18$  mmHg in 95.7% of iStent inject eyes and 92.5% of iStent eyes; IOP  $\leq 15$  mmHg in 74.3% of iStent inject

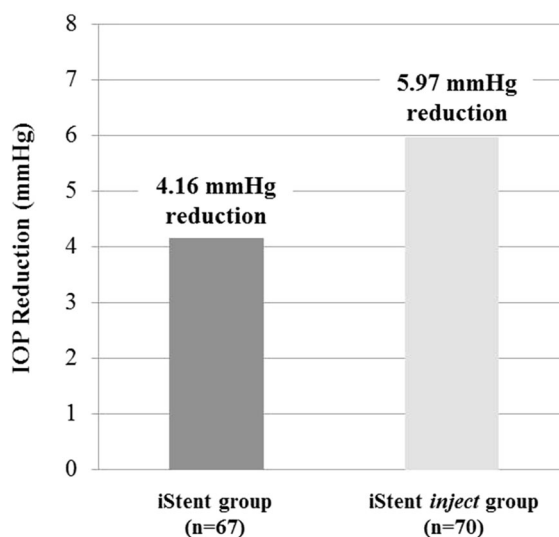
**Table 1** Demographic and baseline ocular characteristics, iStent and iStent *inject* groups

Characteristics	iStent, <i>n</i> = 67 eyes of 46 patients	iStent <i>inject</i> , <i>n</i> = 70 eyes of 42 patients
Age (years)		
Mean ± SD	71.7 ± 6.2	70.3 ± 7.2
Gender		
Male/female	30%/70% (14/ 32)	48%/52% (20/ 22)
Eyes with prior glaucoma surgery or laser procedures	22.4% (15/67)	21.4% (15/70)
Visual field mean deviation (dB)		
Mean ± SD	−4.89 ± 5.50	−4.35 ± 7.40
Glaucoma type		
POAG	83.6% (56/67)	64.3% (45/70)
PXG	11.9% (8/67)	2.9% (2/70)
CMG	3.0% (2/67)	0.0% (0/70)
NTG	1.5% (1/67)	1.4% (1/70)
OHT	0.0% (0/67)	20.0% (14/70)
NAG	0.0% (0/67)	11.4% (8/70)
Glaucoma stage <sup>a</sup>		
Early glaucoma or OHT	73.5%	80.3%
Moderate	14.3%	9.1%
Advanced	12.2%	10.6%
Baseline BCVA 20/30 or better	71.6%	72.9%

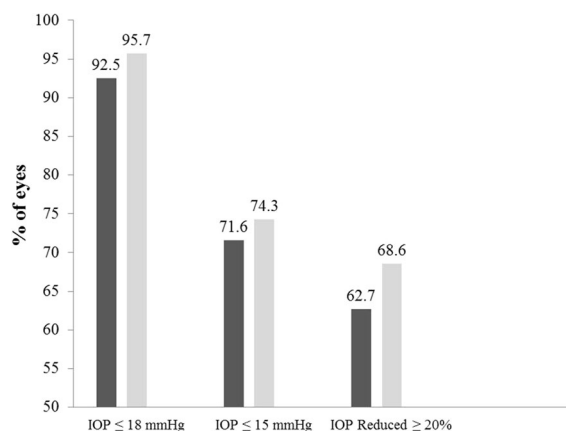
SD standard deviation, OHT ocular hypertension

<sup>a</sup> Preoperative glaucoma severity was determined by VF mean deviation using the Hodapp–Parrish–Anderson staging as mild ( $0 \geq \text{VF MD} \geq -6$  dB), moderate ( $-6 > \text{VF MD} \geq -12$  dB), and severe ( $> -12$  dB)

eyes and 71.6% of iStent eyes, and IOP decreased by  $\geq 20\%$  from preoperative in 68.6% of iStent *inject* eyes and 62.7% of iStent eyes (Fig. 3).

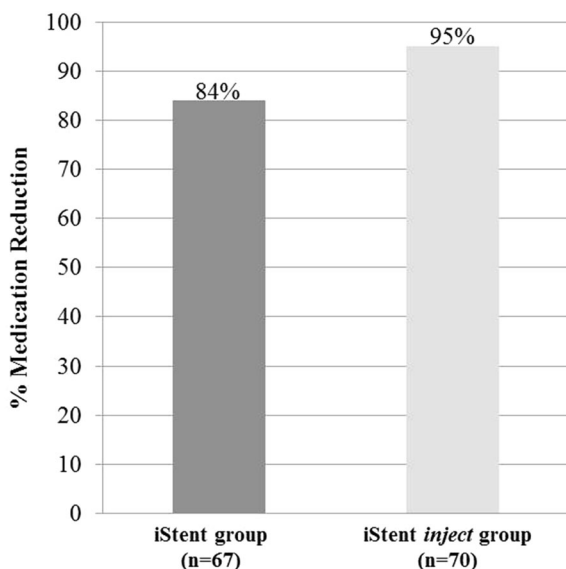


**Fig. 2** Mean IOP reduction at 12 months postoperatively versus baseline\*. iStent (*n* = 67) and iStent *inject* (*n* = 70). \*IOP reduction was significantly greater for iStent *inject* eyes than iStent eyes (5.97 mmHg vs. 4.16 mmHg reduction, *p* = 0.034). IOP = intraocular pressure



**Fig. 3** Eyes achieving IOP  $\leq 18$  mmHg, IOP  $\leq 15$  mmHg and IOP reduction  $\geq 20\%$  vs. baseline. iStent (*n* = 67) and iStent *inject* (*n* = 70). IOP intraocular pressure

Regarding medication usage, mean medication burden decreased from  $1.8 \pm 0.7$  medications preoperatively to  $0.3 \pm 0.5$  medications at 12 months in iStent eyes (84.0% reduction, *p* < 0.0001), and from  $1.3 \pm 0.9$  medications preoperatively to  $0.1 \pm 0.3$  medications at 12 months in iStent *inject* eyes (94.7%



**Fig. 4** Medication reduction at 12 months postoperatively vs. baseline\*. iStent ( $n = 67$ ) and iStent *inject* ( $n = 70$ ). \*Medication reduction was significant in each group ( $p < 0.0001$  for both). *Med* medication

reduction,  $p < 0.0001$ ) (Fig. 4). All patients in both groups were able to maintain or decrease their number of medications versus preoperative. The percentage of eyes on 2 or more medications decreased significantly in both groups: from 68.7% preoperatively to 4.5% at 1 year in the iStent group ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and from 41.4% preoperatively to 0% at 1 year in the iStent *inject* group ( $p < 0.0001$ ) (Fig. 5). A significantly higher proportion of iStent *inject* eyes than iStent eyes were medication-free at 12 months (92.9% versus 76.1% in the two groups, respectively;  $p = 0.0068$ ) (Fig. 5).

### Safety

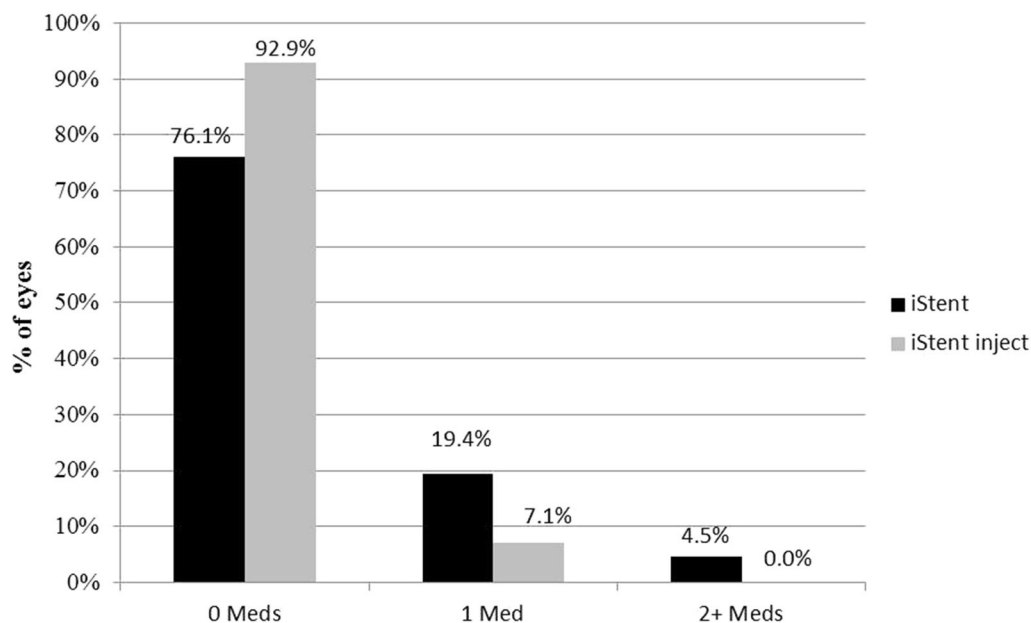
No intraoperative complications occurred in either group. All iStent eyes had successful implantation of one stent. All but two iStent *inject* eyes had successful implantation of two stents; the remaining two eyes had only one stent implanted, but did not experience any associated sequelae or complications; final IOP was 14 mmHg and 19 mmHg on one medication in each of these two eyes. At 3 months

postoperatively, one iStent eye had a corneal erosion (unrelated to stenting) which was treated successfully with a bandage contact lens and eye drops and resulted in no subsequent sequelae or recurrence. No adverse events occurred in iStent *inject* eyes. There were no reports of persistent intraocular inflammation or peripheral anterior synechiae (PAS) in either group. No eye in either group underwent a secondary glaucoma surgery during the follow-up period.

Gonioscopy was performed intraoperatively and at all postoperative examinations; no significant problems in stent position were identified in either group at any point during the study. Through 12 months postoperatively, visual acuity remained stable or improved in both groups, consistent with expectations for phacoemulsification cataract surgery. Visual acuity was 20/30 or better in 71.6% of iStent eyes preoperatively, rising to 98.5% of iStent eyes at 12 months postoperatively; in iStent *inject* eyes, the percentage with 20/30 or better vision rose from 72.9% preoperatively to 95.7% at 12 months. Visual fields remained stable in both groups: mean deviation of  $-4.89$  dB preoperatively versus  $-4.75$  dB at 1 year in iStent eyes ( $p = 0.8816$ , not significant); and  $-4.35$  dB preoperatively versus  $-4.42$  dB at 1 year in iStent *inject* eyes ( $p = 0.9536$ , not significant).

### DISCUSSION

This retrospective consecutive case series examined iStent or iStent *inject* trabecular micro-bypass device implantation in conjunction with cataract surgery in a real-world patient population with mild to moderate glaucoma. This represents one of the first and largest datasets evaluating both devices in the hands of a single surgeon at a single surgical site. Both devices produced significant reductions in IOP and medication burden through 1 year postoperatively, with final IOP under 14.5 mmHg and medication burden decreased by 84–95% in both groups. Although the study was not designed for prospective comparison, several trends did emerge that began to distinguish the two groups. IOP reduction was significantly



**Fig. 5** Proportional analysis of medication burden at 12 months postoperatively\*. iStent ( $n = 67$ ) and iStent *inject* ( $n = 70$ ). \*A significantly higher proportion of iStent *inject*

eyes were medication-free at 12 months than iStent eyes (92.9% versus 76.1% in the two groups, respectively;  $p = 0.0068$ ). *Med* medication

greater in iStent *inject* eyes than iStent eyes at 1 year (6.0 mmHg versus 4.2 mmHg reduction, respectively), and there was a consistent trend toward greater proportions of iStent *inject* eyes achieving the effectiveness endpoints of  $IOP \leq 18$  mmHg,  $IOP \leq 15$  mmHg, and  $IOP$  reduction  $\geq 20\%$  versus baseline. Furthermore, a significantly greater proportion of iStent *inject* eyes than iStent eyes were medication-free at 12 months (92.9% versus 76.1% medication-free, respectively), and the percent reduction in medications from baseline was greater in iStent *inject* eyes than iStent eyes (94.7% versus 84.0% reduction, respectively).

In terms of absolute medication reduction, both groups were able to eliminate 1–1.5 glaucoma medications from their existing regimens. This reduction has substantial benefits for the patient and the healthcare system, given the well-known downsides of medications such as ocular surface damage, local and systemic side effects, financial and social costs, and poor treatment adherence [2–16, 47–51]. Adherence is widely known to be critical in achieving consistent IOP lowering in order to minimize

the risk of optic nerve damage and glaucoma progression [47]. Lower medication burden may substantially improve patient adherence, particularly in patients with multiple medications, given that adherence is known to dramatically decline with multiple versus single eye drops [47]. Our study's findings are particularly meaningful in light of these latter observations about adherence: specifically, that 0% of iStent *inject* eyes were on multiple medications at 12 months, and 92.9% were medication-free. Furthermore, this significant medication reduction was accompanied by an IOP reduction of almost 6 mmHg versus baseline, which was significantly greater than the 4.2-mmHg IOP reduction resulting from iStent, thereby corroborating the comparative benefit of iStent *inject* in reducing both IOP and medication in glaucoma patients.

Some of these trends in effectiveness outcomes between the iStent and iStent *inject* groups may point to underlying differences between the two devices. Three key characteristics are thought to favorably distinguish the iStent *inject* device over the iStent, as cited by

Guedes et al. in a recent real-world case series [45]. The iStent *inject* device contains two pre-loaded stents (instead of the iStent's one stent) in a single injector, thereby bypassing two separate regions of the trabecular meshwork and enabling up to 6 clock hours of aqueous egress. Each of these stents is capable of carrying 2.5  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$  of aqueous humor, the maximum amount typically produced by the human body. Second, each stent has four outlet lumens (rather than one), in order to provide multidirectional flow and maximize the number of accessible collector channels. Third, the iStent *inject* stents are smaller and designed for more direct implantation into Schlemm's canal, allowing for greater procedural efficiency which in turn may reduce complications, increase the proportion of first-attempt successful implantations, and hasten implementation into a doctor's surgical practice.

The two-stent, multidirectional design of the iStent *inject* is backed up by robust research in aqueous angiography and computational fluid dynamics (CFD), the most powerful tool available to assess size and flow. In a study by Huang et al., significant aqueous angiographic outflow improvement resulted after iStent *inject* implantation with cataract surgery [52]. The findings showed reactivation of formerly dormant outflow areas and possible access to up to 6 clock hours of collector channels for aqueous humor outflow. Despite the micro-size of either iStent or iStent *inject*, analytical approximations supported by CFD modeling indicated that each stent presented a negligible flow resistance that resulted in significant IOP reduction. State-of-the-art CFD models estimated that a single iStent or iStent *inject* was wholly sufficient to conduct the entire 2.5  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$  of aqueous humor production [53].

The use of two versus one stent is backed by preclinical and clinical studies evaluating changes in IOP and outflow facility after implantation of single or multiple trabecular micro-bypass stents. These studies demonstrated that efficacy is enhanced when combining two devices compared to a single device. Using an anterior segment perfusion model, Bahler et al. showed that IOP decreased from 21.4 to 12.4 mmHg after implantation of one

iStent ( $p < 0.001$ ); eyes receiving more than one stent had final IOP of 11.9 mmHg [54]. In a second study, a single iStent *inject* stent increased outflow facility from 0.16 to 0.38  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}/\text{mmHg}$  ( $p < 0.03$ ,  $n = 7$ ), and IOP concurrently decreased from 16.7 to 8.6 mmHg, while addition of a second iStent *inject* stent further increased outflow facility to 0.78  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}/\text{mmHg}$  ( $n = 2$ ) [55]. Similarly, Hunter et al., using whole-eye perfusion models, showed 6.0 mmHg of IOP reduction versus baseline with a single iStent, and an additional 2.9 mmHg of IOP reduction with a second iStent, for a total IOP reduction of 8.9 mmHg from baseline [53].

On the clinical side, a prospective randomized trial by Katz et al. compared long-term outcomes following implantation of one, two, and three iStents in a standalone procedure, and Belovay et al. and El Wardani et al. evaluated two or three iStents combined with cataract surgery [33, 56, 57]. All three clinical studies demonstrated that the majority of IOP reduction occurs after the first stent and that additional stents produce further IOP reduction, likely due to access to more regions of the distal outflow network and increased probability of stenting areas of Schlemm's canal that are still patent and functional. The outcomes suggest that iStent and iStent *inject* treatment is titratable, allowing lower IOP to be achieved with additional stent implantation.

The safety profile was highly favorable in both groups, including no stent-related adverse events and no secondary glaucoma surgeries. The device is made of biocompatible material and notably does not contain nickel, which is widely known to be pro-inflammatory and has warranted restrictive regulations in the European Union [58–66]. Nickel allergy is present in an estimated 8–19% of the general population [59], most of whom are not aware of the allergy, which is a real concern for a permanent implanted device. For example, joint replacements containing nickel have been associated with poor wound healing, recurrent joint effusion, pain, and implant loosening [63], while neurosurgical nickel-containing aneurysm clips have been implicated in life-threatening strokes and seizure [67, 68]. Not surprisingly given the



biocompatible, nickel-free makeup of the iStent and iStent *inject* devices, there were no cases of intraocular inflammation or PAS in either group throughout the course of follow-up; this is in contrast to the reported PAS rates of up to 30% observed in trials of other MIGS devices with similar mechanism of action [69–72]. This corroborates the existing literature showing high safety profiles for these stents [22–45]. Visual acuity was stable or improved, indicating that stent implantation did not detract from the visual improvements expected after cataract surgery. Visual fields also remained stable during the study, and are continuing to be monitored to evaluate for longer-term stability. There were no cases of any of the complications typically seen with traditional filtering surgeries such as choroidal detachment, bleb-related complications, endophthalmitis, or hypotony [18–20]. There also were no cases of choroidal detachment or folds, device dislocation, hypotony, significant hyphema, or corneal endothelial cell compromise such as that cited with some other MIGS devices [73–76].

Certain limitations should be discussed in the context of this retrospective, non-randomized case series. The study included all-comers, rather than employing strict eligibility criteria customary in formal clinical trials. Since cases were drawn consecutively from the surgeon's real-life clinical population, the groups were not prospectively matched for ocular parameters, and their outcomes were not intended for formal direct comparison—although notable preliminary trends indeed could be observed. A strength of the study is the absence of inter-surgeon variability given that this was single-surgeon data; however, this also could limit generalizability to broader populations. The report sought to augment the information available to the ophthalmic community about the two technologies; future research could expand upon this knowledge via prospective comparative clinical trials, trials with larger sample sizes, multicenter trials, or analyses of different glaucoma subtypes. No medication washouts were completed, and there was no control group of cataract surgery only, as these would not be appropriate in this real-world setting. However, IOP and medications are

numeric values, and all examinations and medication decisions were completed by the same surgeon throughout, so patients' preoperative measurements could reasonably act as their own controls. As iStent *inject* is a relatively new technology in many regions of the world, this report providing 1-year data is valuable given the need for comparative iStent versus iStent *inject* studies; patient follow-up is ongoing so that longer-term outcomes can be assessed.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this retrospective analysis provides data on both iStent and iStent *inject* in eyes with glaucoma. Outcomes through 12 months showed clinically and statistically significant reductions in IOP and medication, while maintaining excellent safety. Although this retrospective study was not designed for direct comparison of the two devices, some consistent directional trends did become apparent—trends which suggested significantly greater efficacy with the iStent *inject* versus the iStent. These findings were achieved in a real-world setting and included consecutive patients, thereby promoting generalizability to other ophthalmic practices.

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**Compliance with Ethics Guidelines.** All procedures performed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the Ethics Committee of the Hunter New England Local Health District and with the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

**Data Availability.** The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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