High patient satisfaction reported with multifocal IOL

Emilio Pedrotti

THE ReSTOR multifocal diffractive IOL (Alcon) provides very satisfactory far and near vision restoration and a high level of spectacle independence for most patients, according to several reports at the XXIV Congress of the ESCRS.

Addressing a session on multifocal IOLs during the congress, Emilio Pedrotti MD said that excellent results had been obtained in his study of 40 eyes of 20 patients who underwent bilateral phacoemulsification and ReSTOR IOL implantation with a follow-up of three months.

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“Our data shows that this lens gives little accommodative amplitude for intermediate vision but the results were very satisfactory for far and near vision restoration. Contrast sensitivity with and without glare seems to remain within the normal ranges of a standard monofocal pseudophakic eye,” said Dr Pedrotti, Ophthalmic Clinic, Department of Neurological and Visual Science, University of Verona, Italy.

The success rate of the ReSTOR lens in delivering true spectacle independence for the vast majority of patients was emphasised by Larissa Vladimirovna Batalina MD, Excimer Eye Clinic, Moscow, Russia.

In her study of 52 eyes of 43 patients with six months follow-up, none of the patients who had been bilaterally implanted with the ReSTOR lens required additional visual correction for distance vision. She noted that only 9.6 per cent of patients with binocular implantation needed glasses for near vision but used them only occasionally. Overall, 95 per cent of patients were completely satisfied with the results.

“Our results suggest that this IOL model really solves the problem of additional correction with glasses. Proper selection of patients is very important and the best results and subjective satisfaction were observed in binocular implantation,” she concluded.

Quality of life better with multifocal

In a separate presentation, Paul H Ernest MD said that patients who receive the ReSTOR lens could hope to experience a better quality of life compared to those implanted with a monofocal lens.

Dr Ernest, of TLC EyeCare & Laser Center in Jackson, Michigan, US, presented the results of a multicentre FDA-sponsored trial comparing the quality of life results in patients bilaterally implanted with the ReSTOR to those implanted bilaterally with a control, monofocal AcrySof IOL.

The study was conducted at 16 sites with over 600 cataract patients and the results were based on a special questionnaire answered by the patients.

The survey demonstrated that ReSTOR patients’ day and night vision, and near and distance vision activities were statistically significantly better than patients in the control group. Some 80 per cent of the ReSTOR patients were shown to be spectacle independent compared to eight per cent in the control group. In addition, the ReSTOR subjects’ overall satisfaction with their vision was significantly better than the control patients.

“The high level of spectacle freedom demonstrated with the ReSTOR is a result of the full range of visual acuities achieved with the lens,” concluded Dr Ernest.

Dr Ernest’s conclusions were echoed by a Japanese study presented at the congress, which found that ReSTOR provided comparable distance vision with a control monofocal IOL and less spectacle dependency in reading.

“Our study showed that the common problem of night vision with previous multifocal IOLs was significantly diminished with ReSTOR” Hiroko Bissen-Miyajima MD PhD

A further study presented by Richard B Packard MD, FRCS, FRCOphth, showed that patients who are bilaterally implanted with the ReSTOR diffractive IOL report a very high level of appreciation for the implant and most would recommend it to their friends and family.

Dr Packard said that the ReSTOR is his lens of choice for patients who are motivated by a strong desire to be spectacle independent. “In my experience, the vast majority of patients are able to read without glasses and only a few need them for intermediate tasks after implantation with ReSTOR. While some patients do complain of night vision disturbances, these tend to be minimal and dissipate over time. The key point is that almost all of these patients would recommend this lens to their friends and relations,” he said.

Dr Packard has implanted the ReSTOR in over 260 patients since October 2003. In a questionnaire sent to 40 patients with a follow-up of more than one year to investigate their response to daily life with the IOL, patients were asked to rate their visual comfort in a series of daily activities on a scale of one (low) to seven (high), and were asked about their spectacle use. Other questions related to driving comfort in daytime and nighttime conditions, glare and halos.

The majority of the patients could manage “very well” without reading glasses, and of the 30 patients who use the computer, only five said they wear glasses specifically for that purpose. Patients who play cards, who represented a high percentage of the group, reported “absolutely no problem” playing without spectacles, according to Dr Packard.

Patients were very happy with their driving vision during the day and at night, he said. The vast majority felt they had no significant problems with glare or halos. Six patients reported some night vision disturbances, which was not deemed serious enough for them to stop driving at night. Of the 40 patients, no patient scored less than four out of seven and 35 said they would highly recommend the lens for an average score of 6.6 overall, Dr Packard said.

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