Iris-fixated IOL shows good long-term safety and efficacy

The long-term results suggest that the implantation of an Artisan lens is a precise, predictable and safe method for the correction of high myopia provided there is extensive preliminary examination, strict inclusion criteria and skilful surgery, he added.

The retrospective study involving 224 eyes of patients with high myopia implanted with an Artisan Phakic IOL between 1994 and 1999. Their mean follow-up was 8.4 years. All patients had an anterior chamber depth of 3.0mm or more and a pre-operative endothelial cell count of at least 2200/mm².

At the end of the ninth year of follow-up, mean endothelial cell density decreased by 13 per cent. In addition, at four years' follow-up one IOL required explantation because of endothelial decompensation, from a patient that missed all scheduled visits. That patient also presented with a retinal detachment. There were four retinal detachments in total; two of which occurred in the same patient.

There were also seven IOL decentrations, but only one needed surgical repositioning and re-enclavation. There was no ovalisation but there were cases with decreased pupil dilation in the horizontal axis.

In the discussion that concluded the session, Prof Kohnen reiterated the need for commitment by both patients and ophthalmologists to regular follow-up over the very long term to ensure maximum safety with the Artisan/Verisyse and other phakic IOLs.

“I think that at some point, with the upcoming diagnostic options we have for looking at these eyes, the whole community of ophthalmologists is going to become involved in this. The reality is that we really have a high amount of patients and after 10 years we as refractive surgeons will not be able to follow-up on all of them,” he added.