

25G compared with 20G vitrectomy under Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses for Terson syndrome

XINBANG MAO and ZHIPENG YOU

Department of Ophthalmology, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330006, P.R. China

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Abstract. The aim of the present study was to compare the effectiveness of 25G vitrectomy to standard 20G vitrectomy for treatment of Terson syndrome under Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses. This was a case-control study of 20 patients with Terson syndrome (study group) that underwent 25G vitrectomy under Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses, with those of 20 matched patients that underwent 20G vitrectomy (control group). Medical records were reviewed from between July 2011 and October 2013. Data included results of the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study examination, ophthalmology B-scan ultrasonography and fundus photography. The mean age, follow-up time, the preoperative visual acuity of LogMAR and the preoperative intraocular pressure (IOP) were all comparable in the two groups (all $P > 0.05$). There were statistically significant differences in postoperative visual acuity of LogMAR compared with preoperative visual acuity ($P < 0.001$) in both groups, but no difference between the groups ($P = 0.845$). However, the operative times (13.5 min in study group vs. 42 min in control group) and post-operative IOP at day 1 (13.5 vs. 20 mmHg) were significantly reduced in the study group compared to the control group ($P < 0.001$). Therefore, the present findings suggest that 25G Vitrectomy for Terson syndrome under Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses can achieve a significantly shorter operative time and lower post-operative IOP compared with 20G Vitrectomy.

Introduction

The syndrome of intra-vitreous bleeding in association with subarachnoid hemorrhage was first described by French ophthalmologist Albert Terson in 1900 (1). Terson syndrome now encompasses any intraocular hemorrhage associated with intracranial hemorrhage and elevated intracranial pressures (2-4), which often results in significant morbidity

and subsequent decreased quality of life. Vitrectomy has been proposed to have a role in treating Terson syndrome, and numerous studies have reported good visual recovery following surgery (5-8). However, those studies were predominantly related to conventional 20G vitrectomy. Moreover, this technique has several complicating issues such as iatrogenic retinal breaks, entry site breaks and lengthy duration.

25G-transconjunctival sutureless vitrectomy (TSV) is a recently developed minimally invasive vitrectomy surgery system that has introduced a new approach to vitreoretinal surgery and shown advantages for some vitreoretinal surgeries (9-11). The advantages include decreased operative times in certain cases and decreased postoperative inflammation, early postoperative rehabilitation, improved patient comfort and minimal conjunctival damage (12). Comparison between 20G and 25G vitrectomy revealed that the time saved was localized to the 'initial' and 'final' steps of the procedure (13). Damage to the conjunctiva was also minimized with a transconjunctival, sutureless approach (14). This may be of clinical significance in patients requiring glaucoma filtration surgery in the future. This benefit is also relevant to the limited number of patients undergoing multiple vitreoretinal procedures. Comparison of 25G-TSV wounds to conventional 20G wounds in the same patient revealed a much faster healing rate of 15 days as opposed to 6-8 weeks, using ultrasound biomicroscopy to assess the injury (15).

Recently, use of a wide-angle viewing system in vitrectomy surgery has become popular, as this option can easily provide a panoramic view of the surgical field (16). Two types of the wide-angle viewing system exist, with both contact and non-contact types available. The non-contact type is more popular because of the stability of the image against the tilt of the eyeball and the ease of manipulation (17). Resight non-contact wide-angled lenses are a new kind of operative viewing system. The simple operative procedure, wide observation, right stereo visual, non-contact wide-angle viewing system in cooperation with 25G vitrectomy may have the advantage of minimally invasive vitrectomy. The aim of this study was to compare the outcomes and therapeutic efficacy of 25G vitrectomy for Terson syndrome under Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses with the therapeutic efficacy of standard 20G vitrectomy.

Materials and methods

Materials. Between July 2011 and October 2013, we reviewed the records of 20 patients (28 eyes) diagnosed with Terson

Correspondence to: Dr Zhipeng You, Department of Ophthalmology, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University, 1 Minde Road, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330006, P.R. China
E-mail: mxb730828@126.com

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syndrome who had undergone 25G vitrectomy under Resight non-contact wide angle lenses (study group) and the records of 20 matched patients (27 eyes) that underwent standard 20G vitrectomy (control group). Patients in the control group were matched in terms of age, gender and cause of hemorrhage (Table I). This was a retrospective study that was approved by the ethics committee of Second Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University [approval ID: 2011 (013); Nanchang, China]. Written consents were waived by the Ethics Committee.

Preoperative examinations. All patients underwent history consultation, an Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study examination was performed (18) and the best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) (19) was recorded as LogMAR (20) visual examination. Intraocular pressure (IOP), ophthalmology B-scan ultrasonography and fundus photography were performed before the operation and IOP test was repeated at day 1 post operation. B-scan ultrasonography and fundus photography were performed to evaluate the posterior segment. Vitreous hemorrhage occurred in 24 and 24 eyes in study and control groups, respectively. The other 4 and 3 eyes were macular hemorrhage. The normal range for intraocular pressure was defined as between 10 and 21 mmHg.

Surgical methods for 25G and 20G vitrectomy. All surgeries were conducted by the same experienced doctor under local anesthesia (4 ml; 2% lidocaine) and using a CONSTELLATION 25G system (Alcon, Inc., Hünenberg, Switzerland) while Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses (Carl Zeiss Meditec AG, Jena, Germany) were used to observe fundus. The surgical method used was standardized three channels vitrectomy. Three channels were made with three 25G catheter needles on 4-mm site away from the limbus in the supertemporal, supernasal and infratemporal quadrant. The infusion pressure was maintained at 25 mmHg, the illumination level at H4, the suction pressure of 400 mmHg and the cutting rate at 5,000 rpm. The vitrectomy consisted of core vitrectomy, the creation of a posterior vitreous detachment, peripheral vitrectomy and vitreous base shaving. The epiretinal membrane was peeled with 25G forceps. For eyes with epiretinal macular hemorrhage, the central vitreous body was cut first, then the epiretinal macular hemorrhage was removed by suction pressure. Exchange of intraocular fluid was performed in eyes with local retinal detachment. Finally, the three cannulas were removed. Eight eyes were tamponaded with Octafluoropropane C3F8 (Tianjin Jingming New Technology Development Co., Ltd., Tianjin, China); the other 20 eyes were not tamponaded with any material. Sclerotomies were sutured with 7-0 VICRYL (Ethicon US, LLC, Cincinnati, OH, USA), conjunctival peritomies were sutured with 8-0 VICRYL.

The 20G vitrectomy was performed using the standard 20G Accurus system (Alcon, Inc.). The surgery procedure was according to the routine operating methods (9). Nine eyes were tamponaded with C3F8 and 4 eyes tamponaded with silicone oil.

Statistical analysis. Statistical analysis was performed using SAS, version 9.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA). Data are expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation or median (range), and Student's t-test was used to compare the difference between

two groups or pre- vs. post-operation. The Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test was used to calculate the probability value for the comparison of dichotomous variables. A two-sided P-value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Patient characteristics and pre-operative data. The patient characteristics for the 25G vitrectomy (study) group and the 20G vitrectomy (control) group are shown in Table I. All patients recovered from a coma after neurosurgery or neurological treatment. The average interval between diagnosis of Terson syndrome and vitreous surgery was 6 weeks (range, 4-8 weeks). For patients that underwent the 25G vitrectomy, the preoperative visual acuity of LogMAR was 1.05 (range, 0.70-1.70), and for those who underwent the 20G vitrectomy it was 1.10 (range, 0.70-1.70). The intraocular pressure of all eyes was normal.

Operation time. The average operative time was 14 min (range, 10-16 min) for the 25G (study) group and it was 42 min (range, 30-55 min) for the 20G (control) group. The difference in the operative times between the two groups was statistically significantly different ($P<0.001$).

Postoperative visual acuity. Amongst the 25G (study) group, the preoperative visual acuity of LogMAR was 1.05 (range, 0.70-1.70) while postoperative visual acuity of LogMAR was 0.26 (range, 0-0.60); these pre- and post-operative values were significantly different ($P<0.001$). Amongst the 20G (control) group, the pre-operative visual acuity of LogMAR was 1.10 (range, 0.70-1.70), while postoperative visual acuity of LogMAR was 0.22 (range, 0.00-0.70); these pre- and post-op values were also significantly different ($P<0.001$). Significant visual improvement occurred in all eyes following vitrectomy.

Intraoperative fundus. In all eyes that underwent 25G vitrectomy, incomplete posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) was found in 18 eyes (64.3%), epiretinal membrane in 8 eyes (28.6%), macular epiretinal hemorrhage in 5 eyes (17.8%). In all eyes that underwent 20G vitrectomy PVD was found in 17 eyes (63%), epiretinal membrane in 9 eyes (33%) and macular epiretinal hemorrhage in 5 eyes (19%). There was not a significant difference between the two groups (Fig. 1).

Complications. Postoperatively, amongst the 25G vitrectomy group, cataracts occurred in 2 eyes (7.1%), the intraocular pressure was normal at day 1 in all 28 eyes and retinal detachment and hemorrhage did not occur in any eyes. Amongst the patients that underwent the 20G vitrectomy (control group), cataracts occurred in 3 eyes (11%) intraocular pressure was normal at day 1 in 16 eyes (59.3%) and retinal detachment and hemorrhage in 3 eyes (11.1%).

Discussion

In the present study, we compared the outcomes and therapeutic effects of 20 patients that underwent the 25G vitrectomy under Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses with a group of 20 matched patients that underwent the standard 20G vitrectomy operation (control group). A total of 28 eyes with

Table I. Patient characteristics and outcomes by type of vitrectomy performed (25G vs. 20G vitrectomy) for Terson syndrome.

Parameter	25G study group	20G control group	P-value
Patients (n)	20	20	
Gender			
Male	11	11	-
Female	9	9	-
Age (years)	40.0±6.6	40.2±7.1	0.963
Cause of hemorrhage			
CA	3	3	-
TA	10	10	
CH	2	2	
SSH	5	5	
Follow-up (months)	10.5 (8-14)	11 (7-15)	0.858
Disease eyes (n)	28	27	
Left/Right	13/15	12/15	0.883
Pre-operative BCVA	1.05 (0.70-1.70)	1.10 (0.70-1.70)	0.986
Final BCVA	0.26 (0-0.60)	0.22 (0-0.70)	0.845
Pre-operative IOP (mmHg)	15 (10-20)	14.9 (10.5-20.5)	>0.05
Operation times (min)	13.5 (10-16)	42 (30-55)	<0.001
Postoperative IOP at day 1 (mmHg)	13.5 (10-20)	20 (10-35)	<0.001
Normal IOP at day 1 (10-21 mmHg)	100% (28/28)	59.3% (16/28)	<0.001
Intraoperative complication of retinal break	0% (0/28)	14.8% (4/28)	0.111

Continuous variables are provided as means with ± standard deviation or median (range). CA, cerebral aneurysms; TA, traffic accidents; CH, cerebral hemorrhage; SSH, spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage; IOP, intraocular pressure; BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity.

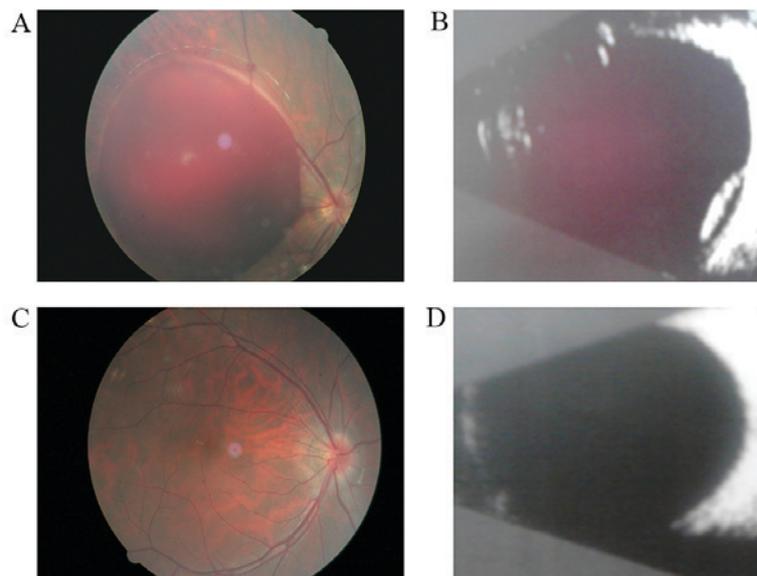


Figure 1. Fundus and ophthalmology B-scan ultrasonography findings from a woman who underwent 25G vitrectomy under Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses because of spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage. (A) Preoperative color fundus photograph shows epiretinal macular hemorrhage. (B) Ophthalmology B-scan ultrasonography shows arc light in the macular area. (C) Color fundus photograph obtained 8 months after surgery. The epiretinal macular hemorrhage had disappeared. (D) Ophthalmology B-scan ultrasonography obtained 8 months after surgery. The arc light has disappeared in the macular area. Best-corrected visual acuity improved from 0.7 before surgery to 0 at 8 months after surgery.

Terson syndrome underwent 25G vitrectomy and 27 underwent 20G vitrectomy using Resight non-contact wide-angle lenses. A significant therapeutic effect was achieved in both groups and the visual acuity was improved in all eyes after

vitrectomy. The mean operative time was significantly shorter in the study group 14 min (range, 10-16 min) compared with 42 min (range, 30-55 min) in the control group. The postoperative intraocular pressure was within the normal range at day

1 in 100% of eyes in the study group and 59% in the control group. Slight inflammatory reaction occurred in all eyes in study group postoperatively, while several eyes in control group had inflammatory reaction a more severe, but this result comes from subjective feelings without objective indexes.

Vitrectomy has been shown to be effective at improving BCVA in previous studies in the majority of patients (7). For example visual acuity of 20/40 or better has been achieved in 76-93% of patients (7,21,22). Variations in improving BCVA are apparently related to patient age and time elapsed between hemorrhage and surgery (7,23). However, the majority of studies have used a 20G system. The results of the present study suggest that 25G vitrectomy produced similar improvements in visual acuity in patients with Terson syndrome to procedures involving 20G.

The main advantages suggested by these results of the 25G system over the standard 20G system are significantly shorter operation time and higher numbers of eyes with an intraocular pressure within the normal range one day after the procedure. A shorter operation time would be expected to decrease the cost of the procedure and is likely to be a major benefit to both the patient and the surgical team. However, there is some evidence that increased intraocular pressure after vitreoretinal surgery might increase the risk of developing secondary glaucoma (24). Intraocular pressure often increases immediately after vitrectomy (25), and this was the case in this study. However, all of the eyes in the study group were within the normal range at day one but only 59% of those in the control group. Usually the increased intraocular pressure after vitrectomy is transient and easily managed (25). Long-term follow-up is needed to evaluate the risk to the eyes of this difference between the groups.

Despite no statistical difference in intraoperative complications between the groups, the result that there were no cases of retinal break in the study group but there were four in the control group suggests that a larger study is needed to fully evaluate the differences in complications between the groups. The higher number of retinal breaks suggests that the control group is likely to be at greater risk of retinal detachment, although the true risk this poses will have to be evaluated by long-term follow-up. The occurrence of retinal detachment with or without proliferative vitreoretinopathy in Terson syndrome has been described previously (26). Retinal detachment is one of the more common postoperative complications reported in 9 and 32% of eyes in other studies where Terson syndrome was treated by vitrectomy (7,22). However, none of the eyes in this study exhibited retinal detachment and vitreous hemorrhage after vitrectomy, which may be due to the small number of cases. Other common complications include cataracts, and in the present study cataracts occurred in two eyes tamponaded with C3F8 in the study group, a rate of 7%. Visual acuity improves after phacoemulsification (7). The development of nuclear sclerosis following vitreous surgery is a well-documented complication (22). It has been noted that 7-10% of patients developed cataracts after vitrectomy for Terson syndrome, and other studies have reported rates of 16, 20 and 32% (7,22,23).

In the present study, the epiretinal membrane was observed in 8 eyes (28.6%) in the 25G vitrectomy group and in 9 eyes (33%) in the 20G vitrectomy group. Other

investigations have also observed the occurrence of the membrane in Terson syndrome (7,21,22,27). It is likely that some gaps developed in the internal limiting membrane during the evolution of a dome-shaped hemorrhage, and later the proliferation of glial cells penetrate these gaps resulting in the epiretinal membrane. Another reason could be that the release of growth factors in the hemorrhage stimulates cell migration and proliferation.

The present study included some limitations. As a retrospective study the patients were not randomly allocated into groups rather they were assessed according to the treatment they received, this may have introduced some bias into the results. The study size was relatively small; a larger sample from multiple centers might provide statistical evidence of a difference in the rates of complications between the groups. The patients should be followed up for a longer period of time, this would provide more details about the true rate of complications that might occur many months after the procedure, and whether the visual improvements are long term.

This study suggests that, in comparison with 20G vitrectomy, 25G vitrectomy for Terson syndrome provides similar improvements in visual acuity but with shorter operation time and better intraocular pressure at day one. These results suggest that 25G vitrectomy should be considered for the treatment of Terson syndrome.

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