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Complications associated with cataract surgery

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While cataract surgery is one of the safest surgical procedures with high success rate, problems can arise. Complications associated with cataract surgery are relatively rare. They include intraoperative, early postoperative and late postoperative complications. Anesthesia-related complications are well encountered. Posterior capsule rupture is the most common intraoperative complication and its incidence can be used as a measure of surgical quality. Intraoperative zonular dialysis may result from vigorous manoeuvres that traumatize the zonules and cause complications further down the line. Intraoperative floppy iris syndrome (IFIS) is one of the important causes of a poorly dilated pupil during cataract surgery and could make surgery very difficult due to iris billowing and prolapse to the wound. Supra-choroidal hemorrhage can occur but is much less common with phacoemulsification and small-incision cataract surgery. Early postoperative complications includes shallow anterior chamber, which may be associated with low or high IOP. Infectious endophthalmitis is the most serious postoperative complication with very low incidence and ranges from 1-3 in 1000 or even less. Toxic anterior segment syndrome generally presents with severe inflammation that is restricted to the anterior chamber. Late postoperative complications involve refractive surprises following surgery. A thickened posterior capsule is the most common postoperative cause of decreased vision with a prevalence of over 40% in many studies within five years of surgery. Rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, capsular block syndrome and pseudophakic bullous keratopathy (PBK) are recognized postoperative complications. Complications may result in significant vision loss, however can be reduced by training and reflective surgical practice.

Biography

Rehab Ismail has completed her PhD from University of Aberdeen, UK in 2015. She is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow since 2008 and member of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London, UK since 2009. She has published 6 papers in peer-reviewed journals and one book chapter and peer-reviewed 4 articles in reputed journals. She presented in several international and national conferences. Currently, she is a trainee in the National Health Service in UK.

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