

“Anterior Chamber Depth After Phacovitrectomy” – Response to Letter to the Editor [Response to Letter]

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Dear Editor

We appreciate the interest of De Bernardo et al in our study. Some of the remarks made are interesting but most of them relate to simple limitations of the study. Here is our response to the issues that were presented by the authors:

1. The anterior chamber depth (ACD) increase is a well-known fact after cataract surgery. It was also shown that the ACD is slightly larger in vitrectomized eyes vs non-vitrectomized eyes.¹ The slightly lower accuracy of the predicted refraction after combined phaco-vitrectomy with a small myopic shift was also shown in previous studies.^{2,3}
2. The scope of this study was to look at the ACD after surgery as a post-surgery measurement of the effective lens position (ELP). We wanted to find whether it correlates with the post-surgical error in the targeted refraction or the use of gas during the surgery. This hypothesis was used in previous studies as well.^{4,5}
3. We do not think that a non-significant subclinical edema is a significant bias in our study as it was not considered in other studies. Additionally, it likely could not explain more than 50–100 μm , as a larger increase in corneal thickness would result in clinically significant corneal edema. Furthermore, in our studies the biometric measurements were performed prior to surgery and then at least a few weeks after it, and at both times even sub-clinical corneal edema is not likely to have been present.
4. Regarding the post-operative axial length (AL) we do not agree that an increased AL is necessarily expected. Vander Mijnsbrugge et al² measured postoperative AL and also did not find a significant difference.
5. We agree that the non-significant difference between groups could be explained by limited number of examined patients, and have noted this point as a limitation of our study. A larger number of patients and a comparison to non-vitrectomized eyes could provide more information.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

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