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Original article

Audit of cataract surgery in Cadiz: Visual outcomes and complications^{☆,☆☆}

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To publish the outcomes and complications of age-related cataract surgery in Cadiz (Spain). Due to the lack of national audits, a comparison was made between the results obtained here and those of the most recent European audit, EUREQUO (2013), and the British audit RCOPhth NOD (2015).

Methods: A prospective, longitudinal, before-after study of 312 patients undergoing cataract surgery in the University Hospitals of Puerta del Mar and Puerto Real (Cadiz), in 2013–14. Outcome measurements included sociodemographic characteristics, visual acuity (VA), symptoms secondary to cataract, ocular comorbidity, waiting time, expertise of surgeon (consultant vs. trainee), rate and type of surgical complications.

Results: The median age at surgery was 73.92 ± 7.31 . Almost all (98.3%) of patients at consultation had a VA ≥ 0.60 logMAR, with a mean pre-surgical VA of 1.01 logMAR (0.92–1.10). There was a 6.7% complication rate, with 3.8% posterior capsule ruptures and 2.8% corneal decompensations. No cases of endophthalmitis occurred. The mean post-operative VA was 0.28 logMAR (0.22–0.33). More than three-quarters (78.8%) of cases achieved a post-operative VA ≤ 0.3 logMAR, and 27.6% of cases achieved a VA ≤ 0.0 logMAR.

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^{☆☆} Presentations at national and international meetings (partial contents):

1. Royo-Dujardin L, Cruz Gallardo MJ, Hoyos Sanabria B, Alcalde Vilchez E, Rodríguez García L, Miro S. Limitación de las actividades de la vida diaria en pacientes con catarata senil bilateral a la espera de tratamiento quirúrgico (póster). Premio al póster más original. XLVI Congreso de la Sociedad Andaluza de Oftalmología. Cádiz, España, enero de 2014.

2. Royo-Dujardin L, Knox Cartwright N, Alcalde-Vílchez E, Quinn A, Novalbos-Ruiz JP, Rodríguez de la Rúa E. Use of preoperative visual acuity to determine eligibility for cataract surgery increases the perioperative complication rate and worsens postoperative visual acuity outcomes (presentación oral). XXXIX Annual Congress of the United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (UKISCRS). Hinckley, Reino Unido, octubre de 2015.

3. Royo-Dujardin L, Knox Cartwright N, Alcalde-Vílchez E, Quinn A, Novalbos-Ruiz JP, Rodríguez de la Rúa E. Limitations of the use of monocular visual acuity threshold to restrict access to cataract surgery (presentación oral). 100th Oxford Ophthalmological Congress. Oxford, Reino Unido, julio de 2016.

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Conclusions: Our success rate was inferior to the EUREQUO and RCOphth NOD studies, with the percentage of patients acquiring a postoperative VA ≤ 0.3 logMAR being 98% and 89%, respectively. However, the populations were not comparable. It is hoped that this study will encourage other public hospitals in Spain to undertake audits and share their results, in order to provide a tool for constructive criticism and quality improvement initiatives.

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Auditoría de la cirugía de catarata senil en Cádiz: resultados visuales y complicaciones

R E S U M E N

Palabras clave:

Extracción de catarata
Resultados del tratamiento
Agudeza visual
Complicaciones intraoperatorias
Complicaciones postoperatorias
Hospitales públicos
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Objetivo: Dar a conocer los resultados y complicaciones de la cirugía de catarata senil en Cádiz. A falta de auditorías nacionales, comparamos nuestros resultados con la más reciente auditoría europea EUREQUO (2013) y con la auditoría británica RCOphth NOD (2015).

Métodos: Estudio longitudinal, prospectivo, antes-después de 312 pacientes intervenidos de cataratas en los Hospitales Universitarios Puerta del Mar y Puerto Real, en 2013-14. Variables recogidas: características sociodemográficas, agudeza visual (AV), síntomas secundarios a la catarata, comorbilidad ocular, tiempo de espera, preparación del cirujano (adjunto vs. residente), tasa y tipos de complicaciones quirúrgicas.

Resultados: La edad media de los pacientes fue de $73,92 \pm 7,31$ años. El 98,3% partieron de una AV $\geq 0,60$ logMAR ($\leq 0,25$ decimal). La AV media preoperatoria fue de 1,01 logMAR (0,92-1,10), equivalente a 0,20 decimal (0,18-0,21). La tasa de complicaciones fue del 6,7%, con un 3,8% de roturas de cápsula posterior y un 2,8% de descompensaciones corneales. No se registraron casos de endoftalmitis. La AV media postoperatoria fue de 0,28 logMAR (0,22-0,33), equivalente a 0,67 decimal (0,64-0,70). El 78,8% de los pacientes intervenidos adquirieron una AV $\leq 0,3$ logMAR tras la cirugía ($\geq 0,50$ decimal), y el 27,6% una AV $\leq 0,0$ logMAR ($\geq 1,0$ decimal). *Conclusiones:* Obtuvimos resultados inferiores a los del EUREQUO y a los del RCOphth NOD, donde se reporta una AV posquirúrgica $\leq 0,3$ logMAR ($\geq 0,50$ decimal) en el 98 y en el 89% de los pacientes, respectivamente. Sin embargo, las poblaciones estudiadas son diferentes. Esperamos con nuestro estudio animar a otros hospitales públicos españoles a realizar auditorías y compartir resultados, como herramienta de autocritica y mejora.

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Introduction

Cataract surgery is the most common outpatient surgery in countries with public funding systems.^{1,2} Surgical and anesthetic developments have made cataract surgery one of the most cost-effective operations in Spain, with an approximate ratio of 2400 euros/year of quality-adjusted life.^{3,4} The Health Service of Andalusia (HSA) carries out approximately 220 cataract operations per day, involving a cost of 3,823,600 euros per month.⁵

In Spain, the health system is decentralized in autonomous communities and each plans and manages its resources. Accordingly, differences can be found between the 17 health regions.^{6,7} In Cádiz, the "Cataract Process" is applied as a part of the "Services for Comprehensive Attention Processes" provided by the Health Bureau of the Andalusian government (D209/2001). Simple cataract surgery is indicated in patients having best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) in the affected eye that does not improve above 0.4 logMAR with stenopeic.

The objective of the present study was to audit cataract surgery in the Clinic Management Unit of the authors, focusing on VA and complications. It has served as a starting point to include improvements and the aim is to complete the study with a further survey in the near future to assess the impact of the new measures and to analyze its evolution. The results of the study could be useful for other ophthalmologists as well as for health managers in Andalusia and in other regions of Spain, as well as for patients.

Subjects, material and methods

A longitudinal prospective study with follow-up during 4 months of a cohort of patients who underwent surgery for senile cataracts in the Ophthalmology Clinic Management Unit of the Puerta del Mar and Puerto Real University Hospitals since October 2013 to February 2014.

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