Case Report

Bilateral Iris Atrophy after the Femtosecond Assisted Laser In Situ Keratomileusis Surgery

Kenan Olcay, 1 Akin Cakir, 2 Sercan Koray Sagdic, 3 Eyup Duzgun, 3 and Yildiray Yildirim 3

1Department of Ophthalmology, Gumussuyu Military Hospital, 34100 Besiktas, Istanbul, Turkey
2Department of Ophthalmology, Golcuk Military Hospital, 41650 Golcuk, Kocaeli, Turkey
3Department of Ophthalmology, Gulhane Military Medical Academy Haydarpasa Training Hospital, 34668 Uskudar, Istanbul, Turkey

Correspondence should be addressed to Yildiray Yildirim; doctoryyildirim@gmail.com

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Purpose. To report an unknown complication of laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) surgery. Case Presentation. A 28-year-old female presented with photophobia and glare to our eye service. She stated in her medical history that she had undergone femtosecond assisted LASIK surgery in both eyes 15 months ago and her symptoms started just after this surgery. On admission, her best-corrected visual acuity was 10/10 in both eyes. She had mydriatic pupils with no direct light reflex. Examination of the anterior segment revealed bilateral iris atrophy projecting within the LASIK ablation zone and a transillumination defect was remarkable on the slit lamp examination. Conclusion. We hypothesized that this condition may have been caused by the abnormally increased IOP that resulted in ischemia in the iris vascular plexus during the suction process of surgery.

1. Introduction

Refractive surgery has undergone significant progress and evolution during the past two decades with the advent of the excimer laser. Excimer laser refractive surgical options mainly include photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) and laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) [1]. Since FDA approval in 2000, the femtosecond laser has revolutionized the creation of flaps for LASIK and is being used confidently at the present time. Herein we report an interesting and previously unreported complication of this procedure.

2. Case Presentation

A 28-year-old female presented with photophobia and glare to our eye service. She stated in her medical history that she had undergone femtosecond assisted LASIK surgery in both eyes 15 months ago and her symptoms started just after this surgery. Preoperative medical records of the patient revealed −4.75 (−1.00 × 175) in the right eye and −4.50 (−0.50 × 180) in the left eye and otherwise a normal ophthalmological examination. On admission, her best-corrected visual acuity was 10/10 in both eyes. She had mydriatic pupils with no direct light reflex. Visual fields were full to confrontation in both eyes. Examination of the anterior segment revealed bilateral iris atrophy projecting within the LASIK ablation zone and a transillumination defect was remarkable on the slit lamp examination (Figure 1) and a transillumination defect was remarkable on the slit lamp examination (Figure 2). Funduscopy and intraocular pressures (IOP) were normal in both eyes.

3. Discussion

Several flap-related or intraoperative complications of femtosecond assisted LASIK surgery are reported in the literature [1]. However, there is no case presented with such a clinical situation, to the best of our knowledge. Many studies have investigated the effects of LASIK surgery on intraocular pressure and ocular blood flow [2–6]. In a study ocular blood flow changes following LASIK were evaluated using color Doppler imaging and a highly significant decrease in the peak systolic volume and end-diastolic volume of the ophthalmic artery at 1 day and 1 week postoperatively was reported [2]. Yang et al. evaluated the effect of intraocular pressure on blood flow velocity and resistance in the rabbit ophthalmic artery,
All these studies show the significant effects of LASIK surgery on intraocular pressure and ocular hemodynamics. In the literature optic neuropathy cases have been reported following LASIK surgery and it has been considered that this complication might be a result of barotrauma or ischemia related to extremely elevated intraocular pressure during a portion of the LASIK procedure [9–11]. Therefore, we hypothesized that bilateral iris atrophy may have been caused by the abnormally increased IOP that resulted in ischemia in the iris vascular plexus during the suction process in our case.

Disclosure

The paper was presented at 19th European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons Winter Meeting on Feb 20–22, 2015, Istanbul, Turkey. The paper has not been previously published.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

References


