

Review Article

Microcatheter-Assisted Circumferential Trabeculotomy versus Conventional Trabeculotomy for the Treatment of Childhood Glaucoma: A Meta-analysis

Ling Ling,¹ Kaibao Ji¹,² Ping Li,³ Zhe Hu,² Yiqiao Xing,² Yifeng Yu¹,⁴ and Wentian Zhou¹

¹Affiliated Eye Hospital of Nanchang University, Nanchang Jiangxi, China

²Department of Ophthalmology, Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University, Wuhan Hubei, China

³Department of Ophthalmology, Wuhan Children's Hospital (Wuhan Maternal and Child Healthcare Hospital),

Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science & Technology, Wuhan, China

⁴Deparment of Ophthalmology, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University, Nanchang Jiangxi, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Yifeng Yu; 171018170@qq.com and Wentian Zhou; 2424917422@qq.com

Received 7 June 2020; Revised 6 October 2020; Accepted 21 October 2020; Published 4 November 2020

Academic Editor: Mitsuru Nakazawa

Copyright © 2020 Ling Ling et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Background. The aim of the current meta-analysis was to compare the efficacy of microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy (Group 1) with that of conventional trabeculotomy (Group 2) for the treatment of childhood glaucoma. *Methods.* Published studies were systematically searched via the Web of Science, PubMed, Embase, and Cochrane Library databases. Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals were calculated for dichotomous variables. Mean \pm the standard deviation, mean difference, and 95% confidence intervals were calculated for continuous variables. Heterogeneity was assessed. Random effects modeling and RevMan version 5.30 were used to analyze the data. *Results.* Five eligible studies were included in the meta-analysis. Mean postoperative intraocular pressures were significantly lower in Group 1 than in Group 2 at 3 months (P = 0.03), 6 months (P = 0.007) postoperatively. The complete success rates were higher in Group 1 than in Group 2 at 3 months (P = 0.008), 6 months (P = 0.001), and 12 months (P = 0.004) postoperatively, as were the respective qualified success rates (P = 0.04, P = 0.0007, and P = 0.001). The pooled estimate indicated lower antiglaucoma medication use in Group 1, especially at 1 month postoperatively (P = 0.003). *Conclusions.* Microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy resulted in excellent intraocular pressure control, higher success rates, and the utilization of less medication than conventional trabeculotomy for childhood glaucoma. Therefore, microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy may be recommended as the initial procedure for the treatment of childhood glaucoma.

1. Introduction

Childhood glaucoma is characterized by elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) and associated optic neuropathy with subsequent vision loss [1]. It has been classified as primary or secondary, and primary congenital glaucoma (PCG) is the most common type. Primary childhood glaucoma includes PCG and juvenile open-angle glaucoma [2]. The underlying mechanism of the disease mainly involves maldevelopment of the trabecular meshwork and/or anterior chamber angle, leading to reduced outflow of aqueous and elevated IOP, enlarged corneal diameter, cupping of the optic disc, and a series of clinical features [3]. The primary treatment for childhood glaucoma is surgery [4, 5].

Surgery for childhood glaucoma has traditionally been recognized as one of the most challenging interventions [6]. Goniotomy and trabeculotomy ab externo are preferred by many surgeons as the initial procedure for the treatment of childhood glaucoma [7]. The success rate of standard rigid probe trabeculotomy ranges from approximately 60% to

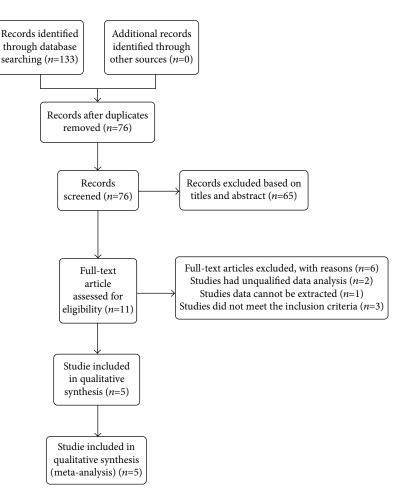


FIGURE 1: Flow diagram of literature search procedure for meta-analysis.

87% in childhood glaucoma [8], but the procedure entails a risk of the creation of false passages and inadvertent tissue disruption [9]. Goniotomy and conventional trabeculotomy may have to be attempted a number of times to achieve the desired level of IOP control [10].

It was recently reported that an illuminated microcatheter helped direct and sustain visualization of Schlemm's canal, thereby enabling circumferential trabeculotomy to be performed safely and completely, as well as minimizing complications [11]. In one previous study, microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy yielded better results than conventional trabeculotomy for the treatment of childhood glaucoma [12]. Notably, however, in another study, the two treatments yielded similar results [13]. Thus, the superiority or otherwise of microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy remains uncertain.

The current meta-analysis was conducted to compare the efficacy of microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy with that of conventional trabeculotomy for the treatment of childhood glaucoma.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Literature Search Strategy. No patients or experimental procedures were involved in the present meta-analysis, thus neither patient consent nor ethical approval were required.

The study adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis principles [14]. Two independent investigators (Ling Ling and Kaibao Ji) systematically searched the Web of Science, PubMed, Embase, and Cochrane Library databases to identify all related studies published before 31 May 2020. The search items used were "microcatheter assisted trabeculotomy", "MAT", "360 degree circumferential trabeculotomy", "conventional trabeculotomy", "traditional trabeculotomy", "childhood glaucoma", and "pediatric glaucoma". Eligible reports were restricted to those published in English. Any discrepancies were resolved by discussion. The literature search procedure is depicted in Figure 1.

2.2. Surgical Procedure. Microcatheter-assisted trabeculotomy was performed as previously described [11]. In cases where the microcatheter tip met with an obstruction or became misdirected, the conjunctiva was dissected and a scleral cut-down over the illuminated tip of the microcatheter was performed. The microcatheter tip was grasped, and an attempt was made to bypass the obstruction by reentering the canal distal to the obstruction, as previously described [8, 15, 16]. Conventional trabeculotomy was performed using Harms trabeculotome to open approximately one-third of the anterior chamber angle in a single surgery 1 site scleral incision [16, 17]. And more than one procedure may sometimes be required for IOP control with conventional trabeculotomy [17].

2.3. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria. To be eligible for inclusion, studies were required to have directly compared a microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy group with a conventional trabeculotomy group; treated patients with primary childhood glaucoma and/or secondary childhood glaucoma; reported data as means \pm the standard deviation for continuous variables; reported primary outcomes including postoperative IOP, complete success rate, qualified success rate, and amounts of medication taken postoperatively; and reported data obtained at 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months postoperatively.

The exclusion criteria were previous glaucoma surgery, insufficient follow-up timepoints, trabeculotomy combined with another surgery, insufficient data, publication in a non-English language, animal studies, case reports, conference abstracts or posters, and review articles.

2.4. Data Extraction and Quality Assessment. Two investigators (Ling Ling and Kaibao Ji) independently extracted the data from the reports identified, and any discrepancies were resolved by discussion. The information extracted included the first author's name, publication year, study location, study type, total number of eyes, mean ages, baseline IOPs, and outcomes. The Jadad scale and the Newcastle-Ottawa scale were used to assess the quality of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and nonrandomized controlled studies as previously described [18, 19].

2.5. Statistical Analysis. The data were performed using Review Manager Software Version 5.30 (Cochrane Collaboration, Oxford, UK). Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals were calculated for dichotomous variables. Mean \pm the standard deviation, mean difference, and 95% confidence intervals were calculated for continuous variables. Heterogeneity was examined using χ^2 test based on the values of *P* and I^2 . I^2 values of 25%, 50%, and 75% reflected qualified success rate and moderate and high heterogeneity. The random effects model was used to achieve conservative estimate due to certain heterogeneity among our studies. *P* < 0.05 was defined as statistical difference.

3. Results

3.1. Search Results. A total of 133 articles were identified during the initial literature search (PubMed 28, Cochrane Library 8, Embase 33, and Web of Science 64), and 57 duplicate records were removed. After carefully reading the titles and abstracts, 76 more records were excluded. After reading the full text of the remaining 11 articles, 2 were excluded because of insufficient data and 4 were excluded because they were not compliant with the inclusion criteria. Therefore, 5 reports [7, 8, 12, 15, 16] were ultimately included in the analysis (Figure 1). The 5 studies included two RCTs and three non-RCT studies. The baseline characteristics of the patients in these studies are shown in Table 1. The total number of eyes was 315: 127 in Group 1 and 188 in Group 2.

3.2. Postoperative IOPs at 1, 3, 6, and 12 Months. At 1 month, the mean difference (MD) in IOP between Groups 1 and 2 was -2.05 (95% confidence interval (CI) -4.28 to 0.19, P =

0.07) indicating comparable results in the two groups, and there was substantial heterogeneity (chi² = 20.66, *P* = 0.0004, I^2 = 81%). At 3 months, the MD between the two groups was significant (-3.09, 95% CI -5.85 to -0.34, *P* = 0.03), and there was significant heterogeneity (chi² = 8.62, *P* = 0.03, I^2 = 65%). The MDs were also significantly lower in Group 1 at 6 months postoperatively (-2.01, 95% CI -3.83 to -0.20, *P* = 0.003) and 12 months postoperatively (-3.27, 95% CI -5.65 to -0.88, *P* = 0.007). There was significant heterogeneity in Group 1 (chi² = 13.69, *P* = 0.003, I^2 = 78%) and in Group 2 (chi² = 17.05, *P* = 0.0007, I^2 = 82%) (Figure 2).

3.3. Postoperative Complete Success Rates at 1, 3, 6, and 12 Months. The pooled estimate indicated that Group 1 had a higher complete success rate than Group 2. At 1 month postoperatively, there was no significant difference between the complete success rates in the two groups (odds ratio (OR) = 2.91, 95%CI = 0.33 to 25.32, P = 0.33), and there was moderate heterogeneity (chi² = 2.94, P =0.09, $I^2 = 66\%$). The complete success rates were significantly higher in Group 1 than in Group 2 at 3 months (OR = 3.33, 95%CI = 1.24 to 7.35, P = 0.01), and 12 months (OR = 3.02, 95%CI = 1.42 to 6.40, P = 0.004), and there was no significant heterogeneity at any of these three follow-up timepoints (Figure 3).

3.4. Postoperative Qualified Success Rates at 1, 3, 6, and 12 Months. The pooled estimate indicated that the qualified success rate in Group 1 was much higher than that in Group 2. There was no significant difference between the qualified success rates in the two groups 1 month postoperatively, but the rates were significantly higher in Group 1 at 3 months (OR = 3.61, 95%CI = 1.07 to 12.16, P = 0.04), 6 months (OR = 6.35, 95%CI = 2.17 to 18.59, P = 0.0007), and 12 months (OR = 4.79, 95%CI = 1.88 to 12.23, P = 0.001). There was no significant heterogeneity at any of the four postoperative follow-up timepoints (Figure 4).

3.5. Postoperative Antiglaucoma Medication Use. Less antiglaucoma medication was used in Group 1 than in Group 2. At 1 month postoperatively, there was a significant difference in medication use between the two groups (MD = -0.42, 95%CI = -0.70 to -0.15, P = 0.003), and there was no significant heterogeneity. At the other three postoperative timepoints, medication use was also lower in Group 1 but not statistically significantly, and there was no significant heterogeneity (Figure 5).

3.6. Postoperative Complications. The most frequent complication after initial surgery for trabeculotomy was hyphema. The pooled occurrence rate was much higher in Group 1 than in Group 2 (OR = 5.35, 95%CI = 1.18 to 24.23, P = 0.03), and there was no significant heterogeneity (Figure 6). El Sayed and Gawdat [15] reported a case of unilateral endophthalmitis in Group 1. Shi et al. [8] reported a case of unilateral choroidal detachment in Group 2.

Study, year	Place	Mean age (months or years)	Study type	Number of eyes	Gender (female/male)	Baseline IOP (mmHg)	Outcomes	Quality score
Celea et al. 2016 [7] Romania	Romania	5.37 ± 6.32 5.37 ± 6.32	Retrospective study	Group 1: 41 Group 2: 38	None None	Group 1: 27.29 ± 4.86 Group 2: 25.1 ± 2.56	Postoperative IOP	* * * * * *
Shi et al. 2016 [8]	China	33.2 ± 33.8 23.4 ± 26.4	Retrospective case- control study	Group 1: 22 Group 2: 21	7/13 9/7	Group 1: 33.1 ± 6.1 Group 2: 33.2 ± 7.2	Postoperative IOP, complete success rate, qualified success rate, number of medications	* * * *
Lim et al. 2015 [12]	NSA	0.61 ± 0.42 (years) 1.52 ± 2.68 (years)	Retrospective study	Group 1: 14 Group 2: 77	None None	Group 1: 30.36 ± 6.05 Group 2: 28.75 ± 8.80	Postoperative IOP, number of medications	* * * * *
El Sayed and Gawdat 2017 [15]	Egypt	5.6 ± 4.8 4.4 ± 3.8	Randomized controlled study	Group 1: 30 Controls: 32	11/19 13/19	Group 1: 25.1 ± 6.4 Group 2: 22.3 ± 5.2	Postoperative IOP, complete success rate, qualified success rate, number of medications	4 points
Shakrawal et al. 2017 [16]	India	6.52 ± 3.94 10.18 ± 5.42	Randomized controlled study	Group 1: 20 Group 2: 20	None None	Group 1: 24.70 ± 3.90 Group 2: 24.60 ± 3.31	Postoperative IOP, complete success rate, qualified success rate	4 points

TABLE 1: Baseline characteristics and quality of the eligible studies.

	(Group	1	G	roup	2		Mean difference	Mean difference
Study or subgroup	Mean	SD	Total	Mean	SD	Total	Weight	IV, random, 95% Cl	IV, random, 95% Cl
1.1.1 at 1 month									
Celeas C, 2016	13.34	2.56	41	13.83	2.24	38	8.4%	-0.49 [-1.55, 0.57]	
El Sayed Y, 2017	14	6.3	30	15	4.5	32	5.6%	-1.00 [-3.74, 1.74]	
Lim ME, 2015	12.17	5.2	14	19.63		77	5.2%	-7.46 [-10.45, -4.47]	
Shakrawal J, 2017	14	1.3	20	14.1	3.2	20	7.7%	-0.10 [-1.61, 1.41]	
Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl)	17.4	10.9	22 127	20.6	10.9	21 188	2.0% 28.8%	-3.20 [-9.72, 3.32] -2.05 [-4.28, 0.19]	
Heterogeneity: Tau ²	- 4 52.0	∼bi ² –		4f 4 (D = 0			-2.03 [-4.20, 0.13]	•
Heterogeneity: $Z = 1$			20.00,	.11 – 4 (.	r = 0.	0004), 1	- 0170		
1.1.2 at 3 months									
El Sayed Y, 2017	13.4	4.8	30	15.4		32	5.7%	-2.00 [-4.67, 0.67]	
Lim ME, 2015	13.15	6.71	14	19.63	7.84	77	4.0%	-6.48 [-10.41, -2.55]	
Shakrawal J, 2017	11.34	2.7	20	12	3.4	20	7.0%	-0.66 [-2.56, 1.24]	
Shi Y, 2016	16.7	10.5	22	22.9	10.5	21	2.1%	-6.20 [-12.48, 0.08]	
Subtotal (95% Cl)			86			150	18.8%	-3.09 [-5.85, -0.34]	
Heterogeneity: Tau ² Heterogeneity: Z = 2			8.62, d	f = 3 (P	= 0.0	3); I ² =	65%		
1.1.3 at 6 months									
Celeas C, 2016	12.91	1.11	41	13.23	1 13	38	9.0%	-0.32 [-0.81, 0.17]	+
El Saved Y, 2017	11.8	4.4	28	14.4		32	6.2%	-2.60 [-4.95, -0.25]	
Shakrawal J, 2017	10.02	2.72	20	12.4	2	20	7.7%	-2.38 [-2.86, -0.90]	
Shi Y, 2016	17	5.1	22	22.5	9.8	21	3.2%	-5.50 [-10.20, -0.80]	
Subtotal (95% Cl)			111			111	26.1%	-2.01 [-3.83, -0.20]	◆
Heterogeneity: Tau ²			13.69,	df = 3 (.	P = 0.	03); I^2 :	= 78%		
Heterogeneity: $Z = 2$	2.17 (P =	0.03)							
1.1.4 at 12 months									
Celeas C, 2016		2.31	14	17.05		77	7.2%	-6.05 [-7.84, -4.26]	
El Sayed Y, 2017	11.9	3.4	27	12.8	4.4	32	6.8%	-0.90 [-2.89, 1.09]	
Shakrawal J, 2017	9.5	2.4	20	11.7	2.1	20	7.9%	-2.20 [-3.60, -0.80]	
Shi Y, 2016	14.8	2.5	18	19	7.1	17	4.4%	-4.20 [-7.77, -0.63]	
Subtotal (95% Cl)		a?	79	10 - 1		146	26.3%	-3.27 [-5.65, -0.88]	
Heterogeneity: Tau ² Heterogeneity: Z = 2				1t = 3 (.	P = 0.	0007); 1	t ⁻ = 82%		
Total (95% Cl)			403			595	100.0%	-2.51 [-3.54, -1.47]	◆
Heterogeneity: Tau ²	= 3.05: 0	Chi ² =		df = 16	(P < 0)				-+_ + + + + + + -+
							,,		-10 -5 0 5 10
Test for overall effect									

FIGURE 2: Forest plot showing postoperative IOP between two groups.

	Gro	oup 1	Gro	up 2		Odds ratio	Odds ratio	
Study or subgroup	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	M-H, random, 95% Cl	M-H, random, 95% Cl	
1.1.1 at 1 month								
El Sayed Y, 2017	25	30	26	32	11.5%	1.15 [0.31, 4.27]		
Shi Y, 2016	21	22	14	21	4.1%	10.50 [1.16, 94.93]		-
Subtotal (95% Cl)		52		53	15.5%	2.91 [0.33, 25.32]		
Total events	46	2	40		2			
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =				(P = 0.0)	$(9); I^2 = 6$	6%		
Test for overall effect:	Z = 0.97	(P = 0.1)	33)					
1.1.2 at 3 months								
El Saved Y, 2017	21	30	15	32	18.0%	2.64 [0.93, 7.52]		
Shi Y, 2016	20	22	13	21	6.8%	6.15 [1.12, 33.67]		
Subtotal (95% Cl)	20	52	10	53	24.8%	3.33 [1.37, 8.12]	•	
Total events	41		28					
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =	0.00; Ch	$i^2 = 0.6^4$	9, $df = 1$	(P = 0.4)	41); $I^2 = 0$	%		
Test for overall effect:	Z = 2.65	(P = 0.4)	008)					
1.1.3 at 6 months								
El Sayed Y, 2017	18	28	14	32	18.1%	2.31 [0.82, 6.56]		
Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl)	20	22 50	13	21 53	6.8% 24.9%	6.15 [1.12, 33.67] 3.02 [1.24, 7.35]		
Total events	38	30	27	55	24.970	5.02 [1.24, 7.55]	-	
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =		$i^2 = 0.0$		(D = 0)	$(1)_{1}^{2} = 0$	0/		
Test for overall effect:				(r = 0.	(34), 1 = 0	70		
rest for overall enecu	2	(1 0.	01)					
1.1.4 at 12 months								
El Sayed Y, 2017	19	27	15	32	16.9%	2.69 [0.91, 7.92]		
Shakrawal J, 2017	16	20	12	20	9.8%	2.67 [0.65, 10.97]		
Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl)	15	18 65	9	17 69	8.0% 34.7%	4.44 [0.93, 21.22] 3.02 [1.42, 6.40]		
Fotal events	50	05	36	09	34.7 70	5.02 [1.42, 6.40]	-	
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =		$i^2 = 0.2$		$(\mathbf{p} = 0)$	$(36) \cdot I^2 = 0$	96		
Test for overall effect:				(1) = 0.0	50); 1 = 0	/0		
	2 - 2.00	(1 = 0.0	001)					
		219		228	100.0%	2.91 [1.87, 4.54]	•	
Гotal (95% Cl)			131					
Fotal events	175							
Fotal events		i ² = 5.22		(P = 0.1)	73); $I^2 = 0$	%		20
Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect: Test for subgroup diffe	0.00; Ch Z = 4.73	(P < 0.0)	7, df = 8 00001)				+ + + 0.005 0.1 1 10 Favours [group 1] Favours [gr	20

FIGURE 3: Forest plot for postoperative complete success rates between two groups.

24 1 1	Gro	oup 1	Gro	up 2		Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Study or subgroup	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	M-H, random, 95% Cl	M-H, random, 95% Cl
1.1.1 at 1 month							
El Sayed Y, 2017	28	30	31	32	5.5%	0.45 [0.04, 5.26]	
Shi Y, 2016	21	22	17	21	6.3%	4.94 [0.50, 48.44]	
Subtotal (95% Cl)		52		53	11.8%	1.56 [0.15, 16.30]	
Total events	49		48				
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =				(P=0.1)	16); $I^2 = 4$	9%	
Test for overall effect:	Z = 0.37	(P = 0.7)	71)				
1.1.2 at 3 months							
El Sayed Y, 2017	28	30	27	32	11.1%	2.59 [0.46, 14.52]	
Shi Y, 2016	20	22	14	21	11.2%	5.00 [0.90, 27.74]	
Subtotal (95% Cl)		52		53	22.3%	3.61 [1.07, 12.16]	◆
Total events	48		41				
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =				(P = 0.6)	50); $I^2 = 0^4$	%	
Test for overall effect:	Z = 2.07	(P = 0.0)	04)				
1.1.3 at 6 months							
El Saved Y, 2017	25	28	18	32	17.1%	6.48 [1.62, 25.93]	
Shi Y, 2016	20	22	13	21	11.4%	6.15 [1.12, 33.67]	
Subtotal (95% Cl)	20	50		53	28.5%	6.35 [2.17, 18.69]	
Total events	45		31				
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =				(P = 0.9)	$96); I^2 = 0^4$	%	
	Z = 3.37	(P = 0.0)	0007)				
Test for overall effect:							
1.1.4 at 12 months	24	27	16	32	17.1%	8.00 [2.00, 31.99]	
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017	24 18	27 20	16 14	32 20	17.1% 10.8%	8.00 [2.00, 31.99] 3.86 [0.67, 22.11]	_ <u>_</u>
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shakrawal J, 2017							
Test for overall effect: 1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shakrawal J, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl)	18	20	14	20	10.8%	3.86 [0.67, 22.11]	
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shakrawal J, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Total events	18 16 58	20 18 65	14 13 43	20 17 69	10.8% 9.6% 37.5%	3.86 [0.67, 22.11] 2.46 [0.39, 15.63] 4.79 [1.88, 12.23]	
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shakrawal J, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² =	18 16 58 0.00; Chi	20 18 65 $i^2 = 1.09$	14 13 43 9 df = 2 (20 17 69	10.8% 9.6% 37.5%	3.86 [0.67, 22.11] 2.46 [0.39, 15.63] 4.79 [1.88, 12.23]	
I.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Bhakrawal J, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Fotal events Heterogeneity: Tau ² =	18 16 58 0.00; Chi	20 18 65 $i^2 = 1.09$	14 13 43 9 df = 2 (20 17 69	10.8% 9.6% 37.5%	3.86 [0.67, 22.11] 2.46 [0.39, 15.63] 4.79 [1.88, 12.23]	
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shakrawal J, 2017 Shih Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect:	18 16 58 0.00; Chi	20 18 65 $i^2 = 1.09$	14 13 43 9 df = 2 (20 17 69 P = 0.5	10.8% 9.6% 37.5%	3.86 [0.67, 22.11] 2.46 [0.39, 15.63] 4.79 [1.88, 12.23]	
. 1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Jhakrawal J, 2017 Jhi Y, 2016 Bubtotal (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Fest for overall effect: Total (95% Cl)	18 16 58 0.00; Chi Z = 3.28	20 18 65 $i^2 = 1.09$ (P = 0.0)	14 13 43 9 df = 2 (20 17 69 P = 0.5	$10.8\% \\ 9.6\% \\ 37.5\% \\ 8); I^2 = 09$	3.86 [0.67, 22.11] 2.46 [0.39, 15.63] 4.79 [1.88, 12.23]	•
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shakrawal J, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Fest for overall effect: Fotal (95% Cl) Total events	18 16 58 0.00; Chi Z = 3.28 200	20 18 65 $i^2 = 1.09$ (P = 0.0) 219	$ \begin{array}{c} 14 \\ 13 \\ 43 \\ 9 df = 2 (001) \\ 163 \\ \end{array} $	20 17 69 P = 0.5 228	$10.8\% \\ 9.6\% \\ 37.5\% \\ 8); I^2 = 0\% \\ 100.0\% \\$	3.86 [0.67, 22.11] 2.46 [0.39, 15.63] 4.79 [1.88, 12.23] 6 4.29 [2.42, 7.62]	•
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shakrawal J, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl)	18 16 58 0.00; Chi Z = 3.28 200 0.00; Chi	$20 \\ 18 \\ 65 \\ (P = 0.0 \\ 219 \\ ^{2} = 5.26 \\ $	14 13 43 9 df = 2 (001) 163 5, df = 8 (20 17 69 P = 0.5 228	$10.8\% \\ 9.6\% \\ 37.5\% \\ 8); I^2 = 0\% \\ 100.0\% \\$	3.86 [0.67, 22.11] 2.46 [0.39, 15.63] 4.79 [1.88, 12.23] 6 4.29 [2.42, 7.62]	• 0.005 0.1 1 10 200

FIGURE 4: Forest plot for postoperative qualified success rates between two groups.

	G	roup 1	G	roup	2		Mean difference	Mean difference
Study or subgroup	Events	SD Tot	al Mean	SD	Total	Weight	IV, random, 95%	Cl IV, random, 95% Cl
1.1.1 at 1 month El Sayed Y, 2017 Lim ME, 2015 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Heterogeneity: Tau Test for overall effec		0.42 1 1 2 $Chi^2 = 0.$		1	58 21 111	7.8% 33.0%	Not estimat -0.48 [-0.79, 0.17 -0.20 [-0.80, 0.40 -0.42 [-0.70, 0.15	
1.1.2 at 3 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Heterogeneity: Tau Test for overall effec	$0.6^2 = 0.13;$	1.2 2 Chi ² = 2.	22 1.4 52 19, df = 1	0.7 1.6 (P =	21 53	4.0% 22.2%	-0.10 [-0.48, 0.28 -0.80 [-1.64, 0.05 -0.34 [-1.00, 0.31	
1.1.3 at 6 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Heterogeneity: Tau Test for overall effec	$0.5^2 = 0.07;$	1.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Chi ² = 1.	22 1.3 50 71, df = 1	0.9 1.5 (P =	21 53	4.6% 18.9%		
1.1.4 at 12 months El Sayed Y, 2017 Shi Y, 2016 Subtotal (95% Cl) Heterogeneity: Tau Test for overall effe-		0.3 Chi ² = 2.	18 0.9 45 34, df = 1	0.8 1.4 (P =	17 49	6.2% 25.8%	-0.20 [-0.56, 0.16 -0.80 [-1.48, -0.12 -0.43 [-1.00, -0.14	
Total (95% Cl) Heterogeneity: Tau Test for overall effer Test for subgroup d	ct: Z = 3.	87 ($P < 0$	76, df = 7		0.35); 1	$1^2 = 10\%$	-0.34 [-1.51, -0.17] 2 -1 0 1 2 Favours [experimental] Favours [experimental]

FIGURE 5: Forest plot for postoperative antiglaucoma medication use between two groups.

4. Discussion

To our knowledge the current meta-analysis is the first to assess the efficacy of microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy for the management of childhood glaucoma. Five eligible studies involving a total number of 315 eyes that underwent microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy or conventional trabeculotomy were included in the analysis. Compared with conventional trabeculotomy, microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy

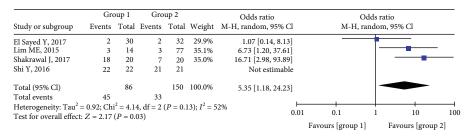


FIGURE 6: Forest plot for postoperative complication between two groups.

resulted in better IOP control, a higher success rate, and less medication use in the early postoperative follow-up period (3 to 12 months).

Conventional trabeculotomy restores the physiological aqueous humor outflow by removing the obstruction. Due to dysgenesis of the trabecular meshwork, however [20], the technique can result in the creation of false passages and inadvertent tissue disruption [8, 9] as well as an inability to fully open the Schlemm's canal with a single incision [21]. Sarkisian [21] first described performing trabeculotomy using an illuminated microcatheter in congenital glaucoma, which facilitated constant monitoring of the catheter inside Schlemm's canal as well as minimizing misdirection and other complications. A growing number of ophthalmic centers around the world are implementing microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy for pediatric glaucoma.

In the current analysis, the microcatheter-assisted trabeculotomy technique was associated with significantly lower IOP up to 12 months postoperatively, with the exception of the 1-month follow-up timepoint. A previous study has also reported a similar result at the 1-month follow-up between the two groups [8]. This may be ascribed to transient hyphema, which was reportedly the most common complication early after trabeculotomy [22]. Another plausible reason is that preoperative IOP in Group 1 was higher than that in Group 2, as depicted in Supplementary Figure 1. Differences in study type may also have contributed to this result, as suggested by the moderate to high heterogeneity depicted in Figure 2. In a previous retrospective study reported by Neustein and Beck [23], circumferential trabeculotomy was associated with significantly lower IOP than traditional trabeculotomy at the 12-month follow-up timepoint.

In the present analysis, postoperative success rates were significantly higher in Group 1 than in Group 2 at 3, 6, and 12 months. This is consistent with a previous study [23]. Notably, however, at the 1-month timepoint, the results in Groups 1 and 2 were comparable, and there was moderate heterogeneity (Figures 3 and 4). The small pooled sample size may be the main reason for this result. Another possibility is that the higher incidence of hyphema after microcatheterassisted circumferential trabeculotomy is related to a greater degree of tissue disturbance [10, 24, 25]. Hyphema was detected in 90% of the patients in the microcatheterassisted trabeculotomy group, which was significantly higher than the rate of 35% after conventional trabeculotomy reported in the literature [16]. Furthermore, the IOP criteria used to gauge success rates differed.

In the current meta-analysis, up to 12 months postoperatively, eyes that underwent microcatheter-assisted circumferential trabeculotomy required less glaucoma medication than those that underwent conventional trabeculotomy. We postulated that the small pooled sample size and the small number of eligible studies were the primary factors that contributed to heterogeneity. Another possible reason is that with circumferential trabeculotomy the entire angle was able to be opened in one surgery, thereby maximizing lower IOP while minimizing glaucoma medication utilization postoperatively [11]. There were few severe postoperative complications such as iris tearing, Descemet's tearing, persistent hypotony, choroidal detachment (one eye), and endophthalmitis (one eye) during the 12-month follow-up period. The earliest postoperative complication was hyphema, which has also been reported in a previous study [26, 27].

The present meta-analysis had some limitations. The sample size and the quality of the trials included were relatively low, and the follow-up duration was relatively short. Moreover, the relatively small total number of patients in the analysis negated more detailed comparisons of different kinds of pediatric glaucoma between the groups. Lastly, other ocular characteristics such as postoperative corneal diameter, axial length, and C/D ratio should be employed to define the success rate of surgery in future studies. To validate the results of the current meta-analysis, future multicenter and large-scale randomized controlled trials with longer follow-up periods should be undertaken.

5. Conclusion

Since 2010, microcatheter-assisted trabeculotomy for the treatment of childhood glaucoma has become an established surgery that has been used extensively. It is associated with lower postoperative IOP, a relatively high success rate, and reduced medication use. Therefore, microcatheter-assisted trabeculotomy may be recommended as the initial procedure in the management of childhood glaucoma.

Data Availability

All data and materials are fully available without restriction.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest.

Authors' Contributions

Ling Ling and Wentian Zhou conceptualized the study. Ping Li and Zhe Hu curated and analyzed the data. Ling Ling and Kaibao Ji contributed by providing the software. Kaibao Ji and Yiqiao Xing validated data. Yifeng Yu supervised the study. Kaibao Ji wrote the original draft. Yifeng Yu and Wentian Zhou wrote, reviewed, and edited the manuscript. Ling Ling and Kaibao Ji contribute equally.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant no. 81660159), Key Research Development Foundation of Jiangxi Province (grant no. 20171BBG70098), Natural Science Foundation of Jiangxi Province (grant no. 20171BAB205047), Health Development Planning Commission Science Foundation of Jiangxi Province (grant no. 20201074), Traditional Chinese medicine fund of Jiangxi Province (grant no. 2019A189), and Key Education Department Foundation of Jiangxi Province (grant no. 190162).

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Figure 1: forest plot for the preoperative IOP between two groups. (*Supplementary Materials*)

References

- M. A. Kipp, "Childhood glaucoma," *Pediatric Clinics of North America*, vol. 50, no. 1, pp. 89–104, 2003.
- [2] R. A. Bouhenni, I. Ricker, and R. W. Hertle, "Prevalence and clinical characteristics of childhood glaucoma at a tertiary care children's hospital," *Journal of Glaucoma*, vol. 28, no. 7, pp. 655–659, 2019.
- [3] Y. Liang, Q. Yu, F. Ji, H. Sun, and Z. Yuan, "Viscocanalostomy combined with nearly 360-degree suture trabeculotomy for the treatment of primary congenital glaucoma: a preliminary report of a novel technique for trabeculotomy," *Graefe's Archive for Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology*, vol. 258, no. 2, pp. 379–386, 2020.
- [4] E. P. Aponte, N. Diehl, and B. G. Mohney, "Medical and surgical outcomes in childhood glaucoma: a population based study," *Journal of AAPOS*, vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 263–267, 2011.
- [5] S. H. Kargi, F. Koc, A. W. Biglan, and J. S. Davis, "Visual acuity in children with glaucoma," *Ophthalmology*, vol. 113, no. 2, pp. 229–238, 2006.
- [6] Y. Ou and J. Caprioli, "Surgical management of pediatric glaucoma," *Developments in Ophthalmology*, vol. 50, pp. 157–172, 2012.
- [7] C. Celea, S. Dragosloveanu, M. Pop, and C. Celea, "Comparison of 360-degree circumferential trabeculotomy and conventional trabeculotomy in primary pediatric glaucoma surgery: part 1," *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*, vol. 53, no. 6, pp. 357–364, 2016.
- [8] Y. Shi, H. Wang, J. Yin et al., "Microcatheter-assisted trabeculotomy versus rigid probe trabeculotomy in childhood glaucoma," *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, vol. 100, no. 9, pp. 1257–1262, 2016.

- [9] A. D. Beck and M. G. Lynch, "360 degrees trabeculotomy for primary congenital glaucoma," *Archives of Ophthalmology*, vol. 113, no. 9, pp. 1200–1202, 1995.
- [10] W. L. Broughton and M. M. Parks, "An analysis of treatment of congenital glaucoma by goniotomy," *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, vol. 91, no. 5, pp. 566–572, 1981.
- [11] C. A. Girkin, N. Marchase, and M. S. Cogen, "Circumferential trabeculotomy with an illuminated microcatheter in congenital glaucomas," *Journal of Glaucoma*, vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 160– 163, 2012.
- [12] M. E. Lim, D. E. Neely, J. Wang, K. M. Haider, H. A. Smith, and D. A. Plager, "Comparison of 360-degree versus traditional trabeculotomy in pediatric glaucoma," *Journal of AAPOS*, vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 145–149, 2015.
- [13] Y. M. El Sayed and G. I. Gawdat, "Microcatheter-assisted trabeculotomy versus 2-site trabeculotomy with the rigid probe trabeculotome in primary congenital glaucoma," *Journal of Glaucoma*, vol. 27, no. 4, pp. 371–376, 2018.
- [14] D. Moher, A. Liberati, J. Tetzlaff, D. G. Altman, and PRISMA Group, "Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, vol. 151, no. 4, pp. 264–9, W64, 2009.
- [15] Y. El Sayed and G. Gawdat, "Two-year results of microcatheter-assisted trabeculotomy in paediatric glaucoma: a randomized controlled study," *Acta Ophthalmologica*, vol. 95, no. 8, pp. e713–e719, 2017.
- [16] J. Shakrawal, S. Bali, T. Sidhu, S. Verma, R. Sihota, and T. Dada, "Randomized trial on illuminated-microcatheter circumferential trabeculotomy versus conventional trabeculotomy in congenital glaucoma," *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, vol. 180, pp. 158–164, 2017.
- [17] M. E. Mendicino, M. G. Lynch, A. Drack et al., "Long-term surgical and visual outcomes in primary congenital glaucoma: 360 degrees trabeculotomy versus goniotomy," *Journal of AAPOS*, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 205–210, 2000.
- [18] K. Ji, Q. Zhang, M. Tian, and Y. Xing, "Comparison of dexamethasone intravitreal implant with intravitreal anti-VEGF injections for the treatment of macular edema secondary to branch retinal vein occlusion: a meta-analysis," *Medicine (Baltimore)*, vol. 98, no. 22, article e15798, 2019.
- [19] L. Ling, F. Gao, Q. Zhang et al., "Optical coherence tomography angiography assessed retinal and choroidal microvasculature features in patients with retinitis pigmentosa: a metaanalysis," *BioMed Research International*, vol. 2019, Article ID 6723917, 8 pages, 2019.
- [20] T. S. Dietlein, P. C. Jacobi, and G. K. Krieglstein, "Prognosis of primary ab externo surgery for primary congenital glaucoma," *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, vol. 83, no. 3, pp. 317–322, 1999.
- [21] S. R. Sarkisian Jr., "An illuminated microcatheter for 360degree trabeculotomy [corrected] in congenital glaucoma: a retrospective case series," *Journal of AAPOS*, vol. 14, no. 5, pp. 412–416, 2010.
- [22] K. Kaplowitz, I. I. Bussel, R. Honkanen, J. S. Schuman, and N. A. Loewen, "Review and meta-analysis of ab-interno trabeculectomy outcomes," *The British Journal of Ophthalmology*, vol. 100, no. 5, pp. 594–600, 2016.
- [23] R. F. Neustein and A. D. Beck, "Circumferential trabeculotomy versus conventional angle surgery: comparing long-term surgical success and clinical outcomes in children with primary

congenital glaucoma," American Journal of Ophthalmology, vol. 183, pp. 17–24, 2017.

- [24] C. A. Girkin, L. Rhodes, G. McGwin, N. Marchase, and M. S. Cogen, "Goniotomy versus circumferential trabeculotomy with an illuminated microcatheter in congenital glaucoma," *Journal of AAPOS*, vol. 16, no. 5, pp. 424–427, 2012.
- [25] S. Temkar, S. Gupta, R. Sihota et al., "Illuminated microcatheter circumferential trabeculotomy versus combined trabeculotomy-trabeculectomy for primary congenital glaucoma: a randomized controlled trial," *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, vol. 159, no. 3, pp. 490–497.e2, 2015.
- [26] A. P. Toshev, M. M. Much, T. Klink, N. Pfeiffer, E. M. Hoffmann, and F. Grehn, "Catheter-assisted 360-degree trabeculotomy for congenital glaucoma," *Journal of Glaucoma*, vol. 27, no. 7, pp. 572–577, 2018.
- [27] C. Rojas and B. L. Bohnsack, "Rate of complete catheterization of Schlemm's canal and trabeculotomy success in primary and secondary childhood glaucomas," *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, vol. 212, pp. 69–78, 2020.