

## Comparative Study between Sub-Tenon's, Conventional Peribulbar Block and Low Volume Single Injection Medial Canthus Block for Anterior Segment Surgery

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** This study was designed to compare the effects of sub-Tenon's, conventional peribulbar, and single injection medial canthus in anterior segment surgery.

**Methods:** The study comprised 120 patients undergoing anterior segment eye surgeries patients were then divided randomly into three groups (40 patients in each group) according to the technique used: group 1: this group received sub-Tenon block divided into equal two subgroups; subgroup a: patients undergo sub-Tenon's block; subgroup b: patients under go sub-Tenon block with 15 IU/ml hyaluronidase, group 2: patients received peribulbar block divided into 2 subgroups (a, b); subgroup a: undergo conventional peri-bulbar block; subgroup b: undergo conventional peribulbar block with 15 IU/ml hyaluronidase, group 3: patients received percutaneous single injection medial canthus divided into 2 subgroups (a, b); subgroup a: undergo percutaneous single injection medial canthus , subgroup b : undergo percutaneous single injection medial canthus with 15 IU/ml hyaluronidase. The results were assessed regarding: pain on injection, during surgery and postoperative, intra ocular pressure (IOP), degree of akinesia, conjunctival hemorrhage, need for facial nerve block, other complications and the results were analyzed statistically.

**Results:** Pain scoring showed in group I a highly significant statistical difference in comparison with II and III especially on injection, there was high significant statistical difference between the 3 groups; the onset of globe akinesia was much faster in group I than in group II and III. In group I subgroup b there was no significant statistical difference between preinjection level of IOP, immediate after injection and 5 min after injection as no significant rise in IOP but not in group II, III significant statistical difference between preinjection levels of IOP, immediate after injection no significant statistical difference among the 3 groups as regards; facial nerve block, eyelid akinesia, supplementary injection, conjunctival oedema and conjunctival haemorrhage.

**Conclusion:** Final result of this study confirms that sub-Tenon's and single medial canthus with hyaluronidase in terms of akinesia, rate of requirement of supplemental injection, pain scoring is superior to peribulbar anaesthesia and so can be good alternative to peribulbar anaesthesia.

### Introduction:

Not surprisingly anesthesia for ophthalmic surgery has undergone very major changes over the previous two centuries, the discovery of local anesthetic agents facilitated ophthalmic surgery and in due course general anesthesia followed and to a great extent replaced local anesthesia techniques, the most

commonly performed ophthalmic surgery is cataract extraction and lens implant, which is routinely performed under local anesthesia.<sup>[1]</sup> paper and documented description of needle block dates back to Atkinson who popularized it as classical retro-bulbar or Atkinson's technique,<sup>[2]</sup> classical retro-bulbar was

commonly used until Davis and Mandel introduced peri-bulbar block in late 1980; since then, the needle blocks have undergone various changes based on published literature,<sup>[3]</sup> while several new local techniques have been introduced over the past few years, none is perfect, the techniques encompass topical, needle-based anesthesia (extra-conal, intra-conal and combined intra-conal and extra-conal blocks) and more recently cannula-based anesthesia (sub-Tenon's block)<sup>[4]</sup> intra-conal block, better known as retro-bulbar injection, remained the mainstay of ophthalmic local anesthesia for much of the 20th century; regrettably although the complication rate was low, they were major injuries, and the block became associated with hematoma, nerve damage and blindness and even, albeit very rarely, brain-stem anesthesia; extra-conal (peri-bulbar) block was introduced as a safer alternative to intra-conal block as it should not enter the muscle cone and for many years was by far the preferred technique; unfortunately it is also associated with complications such as hematoma and even ocular perforation,<sup>[5]</sup> medial peri-bulbar block is usually performed to supplement infero-temporal retro-bulbar or peri-bulbar injection, particularly when akinesia is not adequate, 25-G or 27-G needle is inserted in the blind pit between the caruncle and the medial canthus to a depth of 1.5 cm to 2.0 cm, three to 6 cc of local anesthetic agent is usually injected. Some authorities use the medial peri-bulbar as a primary injection technique for anesthesia, particularly in patients with longer axial lengths,<sup>[1]</sup> some practitioners prefer to insert the needle through the inferior conjunctiva instead of skin, this is an acceptable technique, especially since the conjunctiva can be anesthetized with topical anesthetic, which avoids the need for raising a skin wheal or injection of dilute local anesthetic before the main injection through the skin, trans-conjunctival injection can be difficult for some

patients, however, especially for those who blink frequently or have short palpebral fissures or have exceptionally deep-set eyes. In these patients, the transcutaneous approach may be easier.<sup>[6]</sup> sub-Tenon's block has now become common and is a relatively safer technique, nevertheless there are complications associated with the technique but with a much reduced incidence, the place of general anesthesia has become far more limited still and in current climate it tends to be used for specific indications and under special circumstances<sup>[7]</sup>.

The aim of this study was to compare sub-Tenon's anesthesia, peri-bulbar and single injection percutaneous medial canthus methods of anesthesia in patients having cataract surgery.

### **Methods:**

This is a single blind randomized controlled study, after obtaining institutional ethical committee approval and written informed consent, 120 patients over 30 years and those patients were classified according to the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA I, II, III) and axial eye length ranged from 22 to 28 mm. where patients were randomly allocated into three equal groups. The patient having the following criteria will be excluded from the study, patients with true allergy to local anesthetic drugs, unsuitable psychological status, mental retardation, senile dementia, head movements or tremors (parkinsonism), inability to lie flat, intractable cough, communication barrier (language, deafness), moderate to severe arthritis, neurological disease, claustrophobia, complication from local anesthesia in the same patient on earlier occasion, patients with high myopia (axial length more than 28mm), patients on anticoagulants or prolonged coagulation profile and ASA more than III; all

blocks were performed by the same investigator and the surgeries were done by different surgeons. Pre-operative assessment (history, examination and investigations) were done to all patients, all patients received routine monitoring intra-operatively in the form of electrocardiography (ECG), automated noninvasive blood pressure measurement and pulse oximetry. 22-G IV cannula was inserted in the dorsum of the hand for intravenous access and sedation to the patients in the form of midazolam (0.5-1 mg IV) 5 minutes, before giving the block; for sub-Tenon anesthesia drop of benoxinate hydrochloride 0.4% was used for anaesthetizing the cornea and conjunctiva, a sterile sub-Tenon cannula 22-G for administering the local anesthetic in the sub-Tenon space, 6ml plastic syringe filled with a mixture of lidocaine 2% (3ml), bupivacaine 0.5 % ( 3ml)in subgroup a, and mixture of lidocaine 2% (3ml), bupivacaine 0.5 % (3ml) 15 I.U. /ml hyaluronidase subgroup b, for patients receiving sub-Tenon anesthesia , a drop of benoxinate hydrochloride 0.4% was used for anesthetizing the cornea and conjunctiva. 1 ml plastic syringe with 29 G, 10 mm needle was filled with 1 ml of lidocaine 2% for local infiltration of the skin in patients receiving peri-bulbar ophthalmic block. 10 ml plastic syringe with a 25-G, 25 mm (1 inch) needle filled with a mixture of lidocaine 2% (3 ml), bupivacaine 0.5% (3 ml) in subgroup a ,and a mixture of lidocaine 2% (3ml) bupivacaine 0.5 % (3ml) 15 I.U. /ml of hyaluronidase in subgroup b was used for patients receiving peri-bulbar ophthalmic block; peribulbar ophthalmic block is done by 2 steps. 1<sup>st</sup> step infero-temporal injection following negative aspiration (to exclude intravascular puncture) up to 4 ml of the solution is slowly injected. 2<sup>nd</sup> nasal injection 2 ml of the anesthetic mixture is injected; in 3<sup>rd</sup> group drop of benoxinate hydrochloride

0.4% was used for anesthetizing the cornea and conjunctiva, 10 ml plastic syringe with a 25-G, 25 mm (1 inch) needle contain 6 ml a mixture of lidocaine 2% (3ml), bupivacaine 0.5% (3 ml) in subgroup a 6 ml a mixture of lidocaine 2% (3ml), bupivacaine 0.5% (3 ml) and 15 IU/ml of hyaluronidase in subgroup b, the injection site was percutaneous and limited superiorly from inferior lacrimal canaliculus, median from lateral margin of nose, laterally from imaginary perpendicular line that join inferior lacrimal papilla to inferior margin of orbit and inferiorly from inferior margin of orbit The needle was advanced percutaneously in an antero-posterior direction for half of its length (never more than 10 mm) and later obliquely in the direction of the optical foramen until the needle was on the same plane of the bony margin of orbit after aspiration, the anesthetic was injected in approximately 30 s; an initial transient fullness in the supero-internal region of superior lid was predictive of successful blockade. The results were assessed regarding the degree of akinesia which was assessed by asking the patients to move their eyes in 4 different directions; up, down, right and left, the globe movement was scored for each directions of gaze with a total sum of 12. The time needed for satisfactory anesthesia was noted; failure of the block was considered when the score was still unsatisfactory (4 or more) 10 minutes after injection, eye lid akinesia were assessed by asking the patient to squeeze the eye while it is opened in by the anesthetists hand. If eye lid score 1 or more the patient received modified van lint block , intra-ocular pressure (IOP) was measured pre-injection, immediately post injection and at 5 min using a hand held application device, pain was assessed using verbal pain score (VPS).

The data were analyzed to detect the significant statistical difference using SPSS

statistical package version (16).The following tests were done: descriptive statistics: mean (X), standard deviation (SD); analytical statistics, F test: for independent samples Chi-square test (X2).

**Results:**

There were no significant differences in age, sex, body weight, and the duration of surgery between the groups

**Table-1. Patient's demographic data.**

	Sub-Tenon	Sub-Tenon & hyaluronidase	Peribulbar	Peribulbar & hyaluronidase	Single injection	Single injection & hyaluronidase	P value
Age(years)	61.75 ± 12.061	60.65 ± 9.767	59.40 ± 11.385	61.90 ± 9.358	60.95 ± 13.446	62.55 ± 9.445	0.2
Sex (M:F)	12:8	11:9	9:11	8:12	7:13	8:12	3.7
ASA 1:2:3	8:9:3	11:7:2	8:9:3	8:9:3	8:9:3	7:9:4	2.2
Duration of surgery (hours)	31.50	31.25	31.50	33.25	30.50	30.75	0.5

Data given as mean (SD)

In the present study globe akinesia was assessed by globe movement score in which globe movement score < 4 is satisfactory. the onset of globe akinesia was much faster in group I than in group II and III, there was high significant statistical difference between the 3

groups ( $P < 0.001$ ) at 2, 5 minutes and at 10, 15 minutes there was no a significant statistical difference between the 3 groups where  $P > 0.005$ .

**Table 2. Comparison between different groups according to globe akinesia (globe movement score (GMS) < 4)**

	Sub-Tenon	Sub-Tenon & hyaluronidase	Peribulbar	Peribulbar & hyaluronidase	Single injection	Single injection & hyaluronidase	X <sup>2</sup>	P-value
Akin 2 min	70.0%	90.0%	30.0%	60.0%	30.0%	50.0%	22.2	<0.001
Akin 5 min	95.0%	100.0%	60.0%	90.0%	50.0%	90.0%	27.4	<0.001
Akin 10 min	100.0%	100.0%	85.0%	95.0%	80.0%	90.0%	8.7	>0.05
Akin 15 min	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Pain was assessed using verbal pain score (VPS), Patients were asked to score the pain at the previous stages numerically in a total score of 4:0: No pain ,1: Slight sensation or discomfort but no pain, 2: Slight pain, 3: Moderate pain, 4: Intense pain; pain scoring showed a highly significant statistical difference between the three groups especially

on injection, there was high significant statistical difference between the 3 groups as regards V.P.S. ( $P < 0.002$ ); during surgery there was no significant statistical difference between 3 groups; immediately postoperative there was significant statistical difference between the three groups as regards the (V.P.S.)  $P < 0.05$  surgery.

**Table-3. Comparison between different groups according to pain on injection.**

Pain on injection	Sub-Tenon	Sub-Tenon & hyaluronidase	Peri-bulbar	Peribulbar & hyaluronidase	Single injection	Single injection & hyaluronidase	X <sup>2</sup>	P-value
0	45.0%	50.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	43.6	<0.05
1	25.0%	25.0%	15.0%	15.0%	30.0%	40.0%		
2	20.0%	20.0%	55.0%	60.0%	55.0%	50.0%		
3	10.0%	5.0%	20.0%	15.0%	5.0%	5.0%		
4	0%	0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	0%		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

**Table -4. Comparison between different groups according to postoperative pain.**

Pain post operative	Sub-Tenon	Sub-Tenon & hyaluronidase	Peribulbar	Peribulbar & hyaluronidase	Single injection	Single injection & hyaluronidase	X <sup>2</sup>	P-value
0	15.0%	10.0%	5.0%	5.0%	10.0%	15.0%	43.6	<0.05
1	45.0%	55.0%	70.0%	60.0%	55.0%	70.0%		
2	20.0%	20.0%	10.0%	20.0%	10.0%	10.0%		
3	20.0%	15.0%	10.0%	10.0%	15.0%	5.0%		
4	0%	0%	5.0%	5.0%	10.0%	0%		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Intraocular pressure measurement (IOP) in present study in group I subgroup a, b there was no significant statistical difference between pre-injection level of IOP, immediate after injection and 5 min after injection as no significant rise in IOP but in group II, III subgroup a there was significant statistical difference between pre-injection level of IOP, immediate after injection and 5 min after injection as significant rise in IOP immediate

after injection but drop again after 5 min after application of digital pressure but not reach basal level in group II, III subgroup b there was significant statistical difference between pre-injection level of IOP, immediate after injection and 5 min after injection as significant rise in IOP immediate after injection but drop again after 5 min after application of digital pressure to basal level.

**Table-5. Comparison between different groups according to IOP.**

		Mean ± S.D	F	P
sub Tenon	IOP pre	14.35 ± 1.92696	1.1	>0.05
	IOP after	15.3 ± 2.00263		
	IOP 5 min. later	14.75 ± 2.04875		
Sub-Tenon & hyaluronidase	IOP pre	14.3 ± 1.83819	0.5	>0.05
	IOP after	14.8 ± 1.79473		
	IOP 5 min. later	14.3 ± 1.83819		
Peribulbar	IOP pre	14.1 ± 1.48324	50.4	<0.001
	IOP after	18.55 ± 1.43178		
	IOP 5 min. later	15.8 ± 1.32188		
Peribulbar & hyaluronidase	IOP pre	14.95 ± 2.23548	22.9	<0.001
	IOP after	18.1 ± 2.33734		
	IOP 5 min. later	13.5 ± 2.01311		
Single injection	IOP pre	13.95 ± 1.46808	19.3	<0.001
	IOP after	16.8 ± 1.39925		
	IOP 5 min. later	15.3 ± 1.49032		
Single injection & hyaluronidase	IOP pre	15.050 ± 1.60509	3.4	<0.05
	IOP after	16.05 ± 2.01246		
	IOP 5 min. later	14.55 ± 1.87715		

In our study there was no significant statistical difference among the 3 groups as regards; facial nerve block, eyelid akinesia, supplementary injection, conjunctival oedema and conjunctival haemorrhage ( $P > 0.05$ ). In the present study pain scoring showed a highly significant statistical difference between the

three groups especially on injection, there was high significant statistical difference between the 3 groups Immediately postoperative as group I less painful. In the present study globe akinesia was assessed by globe movement score where globe movement score  $< 4$  is satisfactory and the onset of globe akinesia

was much faster in group I than in group II and III. Intraocular pressure measurement show no significant rise in IOP in group I there was no significant statistical difference among the 3 groups as regards; facial nerve block, eyelid akinesia, supplementary injection, conjunctival edema and conjunctival hemorrhage so that sub-Tenon's and single medial canthus with hyaluronidase in terms of akinesia, rate of requirement of supplemental injection, pain scoring is superior than peribulbar anesthesia and so can be good alternative to peri-bulbar anesthesia.

### **Discussion:**

Regional anesthesia is commonly used for ophthalmic surgery; the anesthetic technique must produce optimal surgical conditions, providing good anesthesia for the patient in a safe manner, retro-bulbar anesthesia was the only technique used for many years ago; Rare but serious complications have led many physicians to replace this technique with peri-bulbar anesthesia,<sup>[8]</sup> however peri-bulbar is safe and near ideal technique it has some limitations peri-bulbar accounted for 30.6%; sharp needle techniques are associated with risks such as inadvertent globe perforation, retro-bulbar hemorrhage or direct injection into the optic nerve; It does not eliminate serious complications totally, although these probably occur less frequently than with retro-bulbar anesthesia <sup>[9]</sup>so some modification is done to reduce complication it suggested single injection percutaneous medial canthus is less complication <sup>[10]</sup> sub-Tenon's anesthesia, using a blunt cannula, has gained increasing popularity; in a survey of current practice in the UK in 2003, it comprised 42.6% of the anesthetics performed for cataract surgery; sub-Tenon's anesthesia does not expose patients to these sight threatening consequences,<sup>[11]</sup> in our study pain was assessed using verbal pain score (VPS). Pain scoring showed a highly significant statistical

difference between the three groups especially on injection, there was high significant statistical difference between the 3 groups as regards V.P.S. ( $P < 0.002$ ); during surgery there was no significant statistical difference between 3 groups.; immediately postoperative there was significant statistical difference between the three groups as regards the (V.P.S.)  $P < 0.05$  surgery the above results were in agreement with the study conducted by *Budd et al. (2009)*<sup>[11]</sup> on 50 patients who were randomized for elective cataract surgery by subTenon and peri-bulbar anesthesia, where the study showed that there is high significant statistical difference between the two groups ( $p < 0.001$ ); the above results were in agreement with the study conducted by *Tarek et al 2010*<sup>[12]</sup> on 100 patients who were randomized for elective cataract by single injection medial canthus percutaneous peri-bulbar block and classical peri-bulbar block study showed that there is a significant statistical difference between the two groups ( $p < 0.001$ ) That was in agreement with the study made by *Waterman et al. (2002)*<sup>[13]</sup> to evaluate the administration of subTenon anesthesia on 106 consecutive patients listed for cataract surgery; on administration of anesthesia 65% of patients had either no pain or slight sensations score (0,1), 30% of patients had slight pain score (2), 5% of patients had moderate pain score (3) with no patient experienced severe pain score (4). Globe akinesia was assessed by globe movement score where globe movement score  $< 4$  is satisfactory and the onset of globe akinesia was much faster in group I than in group II and III; there was high significant statistical difference between the 3 groups ( $P < 0.001$ ) at 2, 5 minutes and at 10, 15 minutes there was no a significant statistical difference between the 3 groups where  $P > 0.005$ , the results in the study was in agreement with the study made by *Tasneem, et al., (2005)*<sup>[14]</sup>, the

study made by *Dempsey et al (1997)<sup>[15]</sup>* and *Ashok et al 2008<sup>[16]</sup>* but *Tarek et al 2010<sup>[12]</sup>* not in agree with our study result but the different is not significant. Intraocular pressure measurement (IOP) in present study was in agreement with the study made by *Tasneem et al. (2005)<sup>[14]</sup>* about 88/88 (100%) patients of peri-bulbar group and 79/80 (98.8%) patients of subTenon group did not have any positive pressure during surgery, only one patient of subTenon group had minimal pressure rise.

#### Conclusion:

Final result of this study confirms that sub-Tenon's and single medial canthus with hyaluronidase in terms of akinesia, rate of requirement of supplemental injection, pain scoring is superior to peri-bulbar anesthesia and so can be good alternative to peri-bulbar anesthesia

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