

Introduction

While the surgical treatment of adult ametropias has gained increasing acceptance in ophthalmic community, experience with surgical correction of pediatric ametropias is limited (*O'Keefe and Nolan, 2004*).

Indications for performing refractive surgery in pediatric population may be divided into the obligatory, functional, or elective categories (*Greenwald and Parks, 1994*).

***Obligatory**. Pediatric patients younger than eight years with anisometropic amblyopia refractory to conventional treatment should be considered for refractive surgery if spectacles and contact lens intolerance develops.

***Functional**. This group includes pediatric patients older than eight years with functional indications for refractive surgery. Examples are patients with significant anisometropia, refractive accommodative esotropia or higher corrections who have spectacle and contact lens intolerance.

***Elective**. This is the final frontier of pediatric and adolescent refractive surgery and involves children with no medical necessity for refractive surgery. These patients require an extremely safe procedure and the refractive effect should be adjustable as refractive errors change throughout adolescence and young adulthood. This should be considered after extensive clinical studies have been conducted validating the safety of the proposed procedure (*Alio et al, 1998*).

Children with high degree of anisometropia face many problems when corrected with spectacles or contact lens as poor patient

compliance, recurrent risk of infection, optical distortion with the use of high power spectacles (*Peterseim and Wilson, 2001*). This directs ophthalmologists to think about alternative ways for treatment as refractive surgery.

Refractive surgical techniques especially these using laser ablation have revolutionized the treatment of refractive errors. These techniques have great potential to treat frustrating problems such as high myopia with amblyopia.

So, Ophthalmologists interested in pediatrics should carefully discuss and research the possible indications of refractive surgery in pediatric eyes. (*Drack and Nice, 2001*).