

Awareness of Intra-operative Floppy Iris Syndrome (IFIS) Among Urology and Cardiology Clinicians Prescribing Alpha-Blockers

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Introduction: Intra-operative Floppy Iris Syndrome (IFIS) is a challenging condition observed during ophthalmic surgeries, where the iris exhibits unusual flexibility, responding to intraocular fluid currents with exaggerated billowing movements. This often leads to a narrowing of the pupil and a risk of iris prolapse, especially during cataract surgery. IFIS is predominantly linked to the use of alpha-1A receptor antagonists like tamsulosin, a medication widely prescribed for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). While effective for BPH, tamsulosin poses a greater risk of IFIS compared to other alpha blockers, even with short-term use. Notably, the risk remains permanent even after discontinuing the drug. This study explores the awareness levels of urology and cardiology clinicians regarding IFIS, focusing on how well they inform patients about potential complications related to cataract surgery.

Objective: To assess the level of awareness among urology and cardiology clinicians about the intra-operative complications of IFIS associated with tamsulosin, focusing on their practices of advising patients who may require cataract surgery.

Methodology: A survey was conducted with 32 urologists and 18 cardiologists at Mansoura University Hospitals to assess their knowledge of tamsulosin's ocular side effects and their patient counseling practices. The questionnaire examined their prescribing habits, awareness of IFIS, and frequency of patient advisories.

Results: Among 50 respondents, 27 of 32 urologists frequently prescribed alpha-blockers, with only 7 aware of the potential ocular side effects, and just one advising patients accordingly. Of the 18 cardiologists, 10 prescribed alpha-blockers regularly, and 8 occasionally; however, none were aware of IFIS or advised patients on these risks.

Conclusion: This study reveals a significant lack of awareness about IFIS among clinicians frequently prescribing alpha blockers, particularly tamsulosin. Improving clinician education and interdisciplinary communication on IFIS is essential to mitigate risks and enhance patient safety in cataract surgeries.

Biography

As an intern doctor at Mansoura University Hospitals, Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University in Egypt, you're actively engaged in hands-on clinical training within a dynamic healthcare environment. This experience provides a solid foundation in patient care, diagnostics, and treatment under the guidance of skilled professionals, allowing you to refine your medical knowledge and technical skills. Through rotations in diverse specialties, you gain exposure to a wide array of cases, from routine procedures to complex conditions, preparing you for a successful medical career.

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