



Evaluating the Results of Trabeculectomy with Collagen Matrix Compared with Mitomycin C and Trabeculectomy without Adjuvant in Patients with Open-Angle Glaucoma

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ABSTRACT

Trabeculectomy is a standard method for patients with glaucoma with uncontrollable intraocular pressure (IOP). Biodegradable collagen matrix implant (Ologen) by changing the pattern of cell migration reduces the formation of scar tissue and increasing the success rate of surgery. In a randomized clinical trial, 60 patients with chronic open-angle glaucoma undergoing trabeculectomy surgery, were randomly assigned to one of the 3 groups, group 1 used Ologen implants, group 2 used mitomycin C and group 3 used no adjuvant. IOP and other results after trabeculectomy were studied in time intervals after operation. In this study, Ologen was an effective method in reducing intraocular pressure and reducing the number of anti-glaucoma drug therapies.

KEYWORDS

Glaucoma, collagen matrix, trabeculectomy, open-angle glaucoma, mitomycin C

Introduction:

Glaucoma is one of the most common diseases of the eye and is a common cause of blindness (1, 2) accompanied by the progressive loss of ganglion cells of the retina and their axons (2). Treatment is mainly focused on reducing IOP that prevents the deterioration of visual field defects. (2,3) When IOP is so high that patients do not respond to medical treatment, trabeculectomy is performed. (3) Also, initial IOP is not sometimes high, like normal tension glaucoma (NTG) and surgery is performed to achieve the desired IOP and reducing the damage of glaucoma. Now, trabeculectomy is a standard method for glaucoma patients with uncontrolled IOP. (3, 4) newer surgical techniques using 5-fluorouracil (5Fu) and mitomycin C (MMC) has improved the success rate of trabeculectomy results (3). The main reason for the failure of trabeculectomy is scarring and fibrosis after surgery leading to bleb failure and increased IOP. To prevent intraoperative or postoperative scarring, anti-fibrotic agents such as 5-Fu and MMC are used. These chemotherapy substances inhibit the activity of fibroblasts, resulting in decreased postoperative scarring and increased success rate of the surgery but on the other hand the anti-fibrotic agents increase the risk of chronic bleb leak, hypotonia and endophthalmitis. Tendency to increase the success rate of surgery and reduce the complications led to the search for an effective method for preventing postoperative fibrosis.

In this regard, recently the idea of using biodegradable implants derived from tissue engineering as an alternative to anti-fibrotic agents in trabeculectomy surgery has been proposed. The implants use a combination of a polymeric scaffold with a population of precursor and stem cells that in the case of biodegradable polymeric scaffolds leads to the same tissues as normal tissues, this substance by changing pattern of cell migration reduces the formation of scar tissue.

A few studies have been performed on the effects of biodegradable implants in trabeculectomy mostly on primary generations of the implants with the commercial name of Oculogen that in the short term similar results were reported by using mitomycin C in reducing intraocular pressure. (5, 6) In another study performed on the newer generation of bio-implants, OLOGEN, the use of implants compared with mitomycin has accompanied a lower overall success rate, however, complications related to bleb and its morphology were higher for mitomycin (7, 8) In this study, the results of using collagen matrix (OLOGEN) in trabeculectomy surgery in patients with open-angle glaucoma, in terms of controlling intraocular pressure, the number of anti-glaucoma medications required postoperatively, complications and morphology of bleb were studied and results of the two control groups, including the use of mitomycin 0.01 - 0.02 for 40-60 seconds during the operation and the use of no adjuvant were compared.

Materials and methods:

A clinical trial was conducted on 60 eyes of 60 patients with chronic open angle glaucoma (primary or secondary) referred to clinics of Nikookari hospital in Tabriz that given the the lack of control of intraocular pressure (IOP > 21 mmHg) with medication or high Cup / disk ratio and progressive and severe visual field defects, despite medical therapy or anti-glaucoma medication intolerance were candidate for trabeculectomy surgery. This study started in January 2013 and finished in July 2014.

Patients after obtaining informed consent for the study were placed in one of three groups, 1- trabeculectomy with Ologen, 2- trabeculectomy with mitomycin C with a concentration of 0.01-0.02 % for 40-60 seconds, and 3- trabeculectomy with matrix collagen implants. Inclusion criteria included patients with primary or secondary chronic open-angle glau-

coma,

Patients with uncontrolled intraocular pressure maximum tolerable anti-glaucoma medications, and patients able to complete the intervention and visit for follow up; criteria included patients with allergies to MMC, patients with allergies to collagen implants, patients with normal tension glaucoma, patients with history of previous eye surgery, eye infection within 2 weeks ago, pregnant and lactating women, patients with hypertension and uncontrolled diabetes. Written consent for participation in the study was taken from all patients after explaining the purpose of the study based on the Helsinki Declaration of tents. The study was discussed and approved at Regional Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Tabriz Medical Sciences and was recorded at the IRCT site with IRCT201212284166N5 code.

The surgery was performed using the standard method with Fornix-based conjunctival flap and triangular scleral flap with dimensions of 3*3 mm, in mitomycin group after preparation of scleral flap, sponge impregnated with mitomycin C with a concentration of 0.01- 0.02% was placed on the site of scleral flap for 40-60 seconds and then the site was washed with 20 ml of BSS serum. In the group of matrix collagen implant at the end, implant of Ologen with dimensions of 2*6 mm was placed in sub-conjunctive and then the limbal conjunctive was sutured to limbus with nylon suture 10-0.

Treatments after surgery was the same in all 3 groups, including the use of topical antibiotic for a week and topical steroids for two to three weeks and homatropine for two weeks. Limbal sutures were removed one week after operation. Visit schedule was 1 day /1 week /1 month /3 months /6 months /12 months after surgery. In addition, in postoperative examinations, depending on the condition of the patient, the anti-glaucoma medication was administered for the patient, if necessary.

The first examination performed on the first postoperative day and the anterior chamber and the amount of inflammation, bleb status and its function, bleb leakage and intraocular pressure were noted. At each postoperative visit, examinations included: measurement of vision, measurement of IOP by Applanation Tonometer, examination with Silt Lamp. evaluation of bleb with high magnification (x16) of slit lamp were performed. For evaluation of bleb, the (IBAG) Indiana bleb appearance system was used and specifications of bleb were evaluated and recorded based on height, extension, vascularization, presence or absence leakage. The presence of postoperative complications including hyphema, choroidal effusion, hypotonia and high filtration and endophthalmitis after surgery and late bleb leaks were evaluated and recorded if presented.

In this study the complete success is defined as IOP less than 21 without anti-glaucoma medication and at least a 20% reduction in IOP at the last preoperative visit. Qualified success is defined as follows:

1- Postoperative IOP less than 21 mmHg with anti-glaucoma medication in patients with preoperative IOP more than 21 than mmHg

2- Postoperative IOP equal to or greater than 30 mmHg but a 21% reduction in IOP from baseline with or without anti-glaucoma treatment in patients with pre-operative IOP more than 21 (the maximum reducing treatment of IOP shall not be greater than the preoperative one)

3- Post operative IOP lower or equal to the preoperative IOP and at least reducing 2 IOP-lowering drugs in patients with preoperative IOP less than or equal to 21.

Statistical analysis: Statistical studies of all data were analyzed by spss-17 software and used Wilcoxon test, spearman test, U Mann-whitney, Kruskal-wallis and Fishers exact test.in all

evaluations P value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Findings :

In the study performed on 60 eyes of 60 patients with open-angle glaucoma divided into three groups, the average age of the trabeculectomy group was 69.00 ± 1.90 (ranging from 55 - to 82) years and in the trabeculectomy group with Ologen was 66.50 ± 2.59 (ranging from 38 to 82) and in the trabeculectomy group with mitomycin C was 66.45 ± 2.75 years (ranging from 41 to 88). There was no significant difference between the three groups in terms of age distribution ($P = 0.74$). In the trabeculectomy group, 80% were female (16 patients) and 20% male (4 patients), in Ologen group 80% were female (16 patients) and 20% were male (4 patients) and in trabeculectomy group with mitomycin C 75% were female (15 patients) and 25% male (5 patients) and there was no statistically significant differences between the groups in terms of gender distribution ($P = 0.91$) and in terms of type of glaucoma in the trabeculectomy group 30% of patients (6 patients) had primary open-angle glaucoma, 70% (4 patients) had secondary open-angle glaucoma, in the trabeculectomy with Ologen 25% (5 patients), primary open-angle glaucoma and 75% (15 patients) had secondary open-angle glaucoma, and in trabeculectomy group with mitomycin C 35% (7 patients), had primary open-angle glaucoma and 65% (13 patients) had secondary open-angle glaucoma. In this sense, there was no significant difference between groups. ($P = 0.74$) The mean deviation (MD) in perimetry in the trabeculectomy group was -22.98 ± 1.5 (ranging from -7.82 to -30.39), in the trabeculectomy group with Ologen was -19.6 ± 1.69 (ranging from -7.15 to -30.39) and in the trabeculectomy group with MMC was -20.02 ± 2.12 (ranging from -15.56 to -29.39), which there was no significant difference between the 3 groups ($P = 0.19$). Pattern standard deviation (PSD) in the trabeculectomy group was 6.91 ± 0.73 (ranging from 2.81 to 13.28) and in Ologen group was 7.14 ± 0.54 (ranging from 3.21 to 11.53) and in trabeculectomy group with mitomycin group C was 8.43 ± 0.55 (ranging from 3.49 to 13.28), which there is no significant difference between the 3 groups ($P = 0.74$) and average length of glaucoma diagnosis was 32.04, 58.8 and 68.4 months, in patients with trabeculectomy with Ologen, trabeculectomy and trabeculectomy with mmc, respectively. In this study, the mean preoperative IOP in Ologen and trabeculectomy and trabeculectomy with mmc were 33.85 ± 1.32 , 33.5 ± 1.15 and 31.40 ± 0.73 , respectively which there was no statistically significant difference ($P = 0.31$). Results of

postoperative studies are shown in Tables 1 to 4:

Time interval		Pre Op	1 day		1 week		1 month	P- value*	3 month	P- value*	6 month	P- value*	12 month	P- value*
IOP	Ologen	32.85± 1.32	8.70± 0.60	<0.001	9.75± 0.53	<0.001	12.5±0.96	<0.001	14.15±1.14	<0.001	15.30±1.51	<0.001	13.65±0.52	<0.001
	Range	24-45	3-12		3-14		5-22		6-30		9-34		10-18	
	Tbx	33.5 ± 1.15	13.45 ± 0.71	<0.001	14.40 ± 0.53	<0.001	15.8±0.70	<0.001	20.60±1.58	<0.001	20.35±1.53	<0.001	16.65±0.84	<0.001
	Range	26-50	10-22		11-20		11-23		12-40		14-42		11-26	
UCVA	Tbx & mmc	31.40±0.73	9.70±0.55	<0.001	10.10±0.64	<0.001	15.15±1.53	<0.001	16.40±1.23	<0.001	16.10±1.06	<0.001	14.60±1.07	<0.001
	Range	26-40	4-18		3-16		2-37		10-35		10-28		8-28	
	p- value**	0.31	<0.001		<0.001		0.03		0.001		0.002		0.04	
IOP	Ologen	0.83±0.13	1.28±0.19	<0.001	1.02±0.12	<0.001	0.89±0.12	0.03	0.88±0.12	0.07	0.90±0.12	0.03	0.92±0.12	0.008
	Range	0.05-1.80	0.2-4		0.15-1.80		0.10-1.90		0.05-2.00		0.05-2.00		0.05-2.00	
	Tbx	0.93±0.14	1.19±0.13	<0.001	1.06±0.14	<0.001	0.94±0.14	0.18	0.95±0.14	0.29	0.96±0.14	0.12	0.97±0.14	0.08
	Range	0.1-0.12	0.3-1.85		0.2-1.85		0.10-0.80		0.10-1.80		0.10-1.80		0.10±1.80	
UCVA	Tbx & mmc	0.96±0.12	1.30±0.11	<0.001	1.19±0.12	<0.001	1.00±0.13	0.001	1.01±0.13	0.34	1.05±0.13	0.11	0.95±0.13	0.51
	Range	0.20-1.90	0.50-1.90		0.15-2.00		0.10-2.00		0.20-2.00		0.20-2.00		0.20-2.00	
	p- value**	0.80	0.73		0.54		0.86		0.80		0.69		0.97	

wilcoxon*
Kruskal-wallis**

Table1: Evaluation of IOP and UCVA (uncorrected visual acuity) at time intervals of the study

Time interval	1 day	p-value*	1 week	p- value*	1 month	p- value*	3 month	p- value*	6 month	p- value*	12 month	p- value*
Ologen	8.70± 0.60	<0.001	9.75± 0.53	<0.001	12.5±0.96	0.007	14.15±1.14	<0.001	15.30±1.51	<0.001	13.65±0.52	0.009
Range	3-12		3-14		5-22		6-30		9-34		10-18	
Tbx	13.45 ± 0.71	0.66	14.40 ± 0.53	0.48	15.8±0.70	0.14	20.60±1.58	0.10	20.35±1.53	0.19	16.65±0.84	0.68
Range	10-22		11-20		11-23		12-40		14-42		11-26	
Tbx & mmc	9.70±0.55	0.66	10.10±0.64	0.48	15.15±1.53	0.14	16.40±1.23	0.10	16.10±1.06	0.19	14.60±1.07	0.68
Range	4-18		3-16		2-37		10-35		10-28		8-28	
Ologen	8.70± 0.60	0.66	9.75± 0.53	0.48	12.5±0.96	0.14	14.15±1.14	0.10	15.30±1.51	0.19	13.65±0.52	0.68
Range	3-12		3-14		5-22		6-30		9-34		10-18	

*Mann-Whitney U

Table2: Evaluation of IOP between the study groups in the postoperative time intervals

Time interval	Pre Op	1 day	P- value*	1 week	p- value*	1 month	p- value*	3 month	p- value*	6 month	p- value*	12 month	p- value*	
Number of Medication	Ologen	3.60±0.13	0.0±0.0	<0.001	0.0±0.0	<0.001	0.40±0.18	<0.001	0.45±0.22	<0.001	0.65±0.24	<0.001	0.95±0.31	<0.001
	Range	2-4	0-0		0-0		0-3		0-4		0-4		0-4	
	Tbx	3.45±0.11	0.25±0.14	<0.001	0.20±0.12	<0.001	1.15±0.29	<0.001	1.95±0.22	<0.001	2.25±0.25	0.001	2.05±0.26	0.001
	Range	3-4	0-2		0-2		0-4		0-4		0-4		0-4	
Number of Medication	Tbx & mmc	3.25±0.12	0.05±0.05	<0.001	0.05±0.05	<0.001	0.70±0.18	<0.001	1.35±0.29	<0.001	1.60±0.33	0.001	1.60±0.30	0.001
	Range	2-4	0-1		0-1		0-2		0-4		0-4		0-4	
	p- value**	0.74	0.15		0.15		0.09		<0.001		<0.001		0.02	

wilcoxon*
Kruskal-wallis**

Table3: Evaluation of the number of anti-glaucoma drugs in studied groups at time intervals

Number of medication													
Time interval	Pre Op	1 day	P- value*	1 week	p- value*	1 month	p- value*	3 month	p- value*	6 month	p- value*	12 month	p- value*
Ologen	3.60±0.13	0.0±0.0	0.43	0.0±0.0	0.43	0.40±0.18	0.07	0.45±0.22	<0.001	0.65±0.24	<0.001	0.95±0.31	0.005
	Range	2-4		0-0		0-0		0-3		0-4		0-4	
Tbx	3.45±0.11	0.25±0.14	0.80	0.20±0.12	0.80	1.15±0.29	0.20	1.95±0.22	0.02	2.25±0.25	0.03	2.05±0.26	0.09
	Range	3-4		0-2		0-2		0-4		0-4		0-4	
Tbx & mmc	3.25±0.12	0.05±0.05	0.80	0.05±0.05	0.80	0.70±0.18	0.20	1.35±0.29	0.02	1.60±0.33	0.03	1.60±0.30	0.09
	Range	2-4		0-1		0-1		0-2		0-4		0-4	
Ologen	3.60±0.13	0.0±0.0	0.80	0.0±0.0	0.80	0.40±0.18	0.20	0.45±0.22	0.02	0.65±0.24	0.03	0.95±0.31	0.09
	Range	2-4		0-0		0-0		0-3		0-4		0-4	

Table4: Evaluation of the number of anti-glaucoma medications during the medications during the study interval between study groups

tomycin in our study. In the study by Rosentreter et al on 10 patients, no anti-glaucoma treatment was required in mmc group, in the first year of study, whereas 5 patients in Ologen group needed topical treatment, complete success was 100% in mmc group, and 50% in Ologen group. (P=0.01) and the bleb morphology in mitomycin C group faced more problems like avascularity than ologen group(8), difference may be due to the longer duration of mmc use in the study compared with our study (3 minutes vs. 40-60 seconds), in terms of anti-glaucoma treatment, ologen group required fewer treatments that was significant in months 3 and 6 after surgery, this was probably due to the fact that Ologen acts as a space occupier in early months, but with the passage of time, it loses its efficiency due to degradation. In our study, the vascularity of mitomycin group was lower than that of the Ologen group and it was for months 1, 3, 6 and 12. In the study by Dimitris et al, average IOP for both groups was significantly lower than the preoperative levels (P<0.05) and the number of drug treatments were significantly (P<0.001) reduced. There was no considerable difference between the two groups in postoperative complications. (16) However, in our study, ologen groups needed lower drugs than mmc groups in months 3, 6 (p=0.02, p=0.03 respectively). In the study by Miao et al, no significant difference was observed in drug reduction or complete and qualified success in comparing the two groups and the complication rates were not significant between the two groups(17) In another study by Rosentreter, et al., one year after surgery, the mean IOP in Ologen group was reduced by 43% (P<0.01) and 54% in mmc group (P<0.01), and the success rate of surgery, 12 months after surgery was 93.3% in mmc and 40% in Ologen group (P=0.01) (18), and the difference may be due to longer duration of intraoperative mitomycin in study compared to that of our study. In the study by S Senthil et al, the average reduction in IOP in mmc group compared with Ologen group was significantly lower. (P=0.01), but in the months 12 and 24 between the two groups, complete success rate was 100% at the end of 6 months in Ologen group and 93.8% in mmc group.(19) And the differences from our study may be due to the type of

glaucoma of studied patients (Both POAG and PACG) and also the higher concentration and longer use of mitomycin (0.4 mg/ml for 2 minutes). In the study by Marey et al, no significant difference was observed between groups in mean IOP. And also, there was no significant difference between the two groups with regard to side effects. (20) And the results are similar to those of our study.

In the study that we carried out, there were some limitations, one is that the severity of glaucoma was not identical in all groups and desired IOP was different in each case, and thus taking ethical considerations into account, wherever the examinations of cup/disc and IOP after surgery required to lower intraocular pressure of the patients, anti-glaucoma medication was added and other limitation was the duration of anti-glaucoma medication before the procedure that was different among groups. And due to drug reaction and fibrosis, lower bleb scarring was achieved; this reduces success in the postoperative results.

Conclusion:

this study, Ologen was effective in reducing intraocular pressure and reducing the number of anti-glaucoma drug therapies compared with trabeculectomy without adjuvant and trabeculectomy with mitomycin and can be considered as an effective and safe method in trabeculectomy surgery.

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