Clinical differences between toric intraocular lens (IOL) and monofocal intraocular lens (IOL) implantation when myopia is determined as target refraction

Da young Shin  
Catholic University of Korea School of Medicine  

Ho Sik Hwang  
Catholic University of Korea School of Medicine  

Hyun Seung Kim  
Catholic University of Korea School of Medicine  

Man Soo Kim  
Catholic University of Korea School of Medicine  

Eun Chul Kim (✉ eunchol@hanmail.net)  
Catholic University of Korea School of Medicine  https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0310-5663

Research article  

Keywords: Toric intraocular lens implantation, Corneal astigmatism, Tecnis ZCT toric IOL, Myopia, Near visual acuity, Distant visual acuity  

DOI: https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-54189/v1  

License: ☑️ This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Read Full License
Abstract

Background: To analyze and compare the clinical results of toric intraocular lens (IOL) and monofocal IOL implantation when the target refraction value is determined -3 diopter (D) in cataract patients with corneal astigmatism >1.5 diopters (D).

Methods: We performed a retrospective chart review for patients with corneal astigmatism >1.5D who underwent cataract surgery and their target refraction is determined -3D. 100 eyes (100 patients; monofocal IOL, 60; toric IOL, 40) were enrolled in the current study. Near and distant uncorrected visual acuity (UCVA), corrected VA, spherical equivalent and refractive, corneal astigmatism were evaluated before and after surgery.

Results: The near UCVA of the toric IOL group (0.26±0.33) after cataract surgery was significantly better than that of the monofocal IOL group (0.48±0.32) (p=0.030). The distant UCVA of the toric IOL group (0.38 ± 0.14) was also significantly better than that of the monofocal IOL group (0.55 ± 0.22) (p = 0.026). There were no significant intergroup differences in postoperative best-corrected visual acuity (p = 0.710) and mean spherical equivalent (p = 0.465). In the toric IOL group, postoperative refractive astigmatism was -0.80 ± 0.46D and postoperative corneal astigmatism was -1.50 ± 0.62D, whereas the corresponding values in the monofocal IOL group were -1.65 ± 0.77D and -1.45 ± 0.64D; residual refractive astigmatism was significantly lower with toric IOL implantation compared with monofocal IOL implantation (p = 0.001).

Conclusions: When myopic refraction such as -3D was determined as the target power in patients with corneal astigmatism, toric IOL implantation led to excellent improvement in both near and distant UCVA.

Background

Multiple advances in cataract surgical techniques are being employed to improve the quality of postoperative visual acuity (VA). Corneal astigmatism reduces uncorrected visual acuity (UCVA) after surgery, which is one of the main reasons for increased dependence on corrective lenses [1]. Studies conducted in China, Southwest Asia and Europe have reported that 22.1–26.2% of the population have corneal astigmatism > 1.5 diopters (D) [2–4]. Accordingly, various methods, such as arcuate incision using limbal relaxing incision (LRI) and femtosecond laser, toric intraocular lens (IOL) implantation, and photorefractive keratectomy, have been studied for correction of corneal astigmatism in cataract surgery [5]. However, it is difficult to simultaneously perform photorefractive keratectomy with cataract surgery, and expensive machines are needed for arcuate incision using femtosecond laser; therefore, LRI and toric IOL implantation are usually preferred. Toric IOLs implantation has been reported to be more effective than LRI [6]. Toric IOLs has become the most recommended method for correcting astigmatism in cataract patients.

The advantages of toric lenses over conventional IOLs have already been studied. Pineda et al. [7] reported that the toric IOLs provide an additional 10 to 20 quality adjusted life years compared with
conventional IOLs with and without intraoperative refractive correction. However, patients who have
determined nearsightedness with the target refraction power such as -3D tends not to be recommended
for toric IOLs. Because the nearsightedness patients should always wear spectacle for distant distance
such as driving, walking, watching television and so on, the remaining astigmatism can be corrected
together with the usual spectacle.

We aimed to compare the postop uncorrected visual acuity of near and distant between the toric IOL
group and the monofocal IOL group, when myopic refraction such as -3D was determined as the target
power in cataract patients with corneal astigmatism,

**Methods**

**Patients**

This study retrospectively reviewed 100 eyes (60 with monofocal IOL; 40 with toric IOL) of 100 patients
who underwent cataract surgery with preoperative corneal astigmatism of > 1.5D in Bucheon St. Mary's
Hospital, Bucheon, South Korea from January 2014 to December 2015. It was approved by Institutional
review and Ethics Board of Seoul St. Mary's Hospital and we followed all relevant tenets of the
Declaration of Helsinki. Written informed consent was obtained from all the eligible patients.

**Preoperative examination**

The following were evaluated as part of the preoperative examination: detailed medical history; slit lamp
microscopy and fundus examination, distant UCVA and best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA);
autorefraction); and corneal topography (Pentacam, Oculus GmBH, Wetzlar, Germany). The axial length
used was the mean value determined from two measurements with the IOL Master (Carl Zeiss Meditec
Inc., Dublin, CA, USA) and A-scan (AvisoTM, Quantel Medical, France) twice, and IOL power was
calculated using the SRK/T formula. Patients with corneal astigmatism of > 1.5 D on both in
autorefraction and corneal topography were included as subjects. Implantation of a toric versus
monofocal IOL was decided according to the patients's wishes, after the cost of a toric IOL was explained
to them. Patients with irregular astigmatism, pupil size < 5.5 mm, retinal abnormalities, and other
ophthalmic or systemic diseases that might have affected the corneal topographic mapping or VA were
excluded.

**Toric and monofocal IOLs**

The Tecnis® ZCB IOL (Abbott Medical Optics, Santa Ana, CA, USA) was used as a monofocal IOL, and the
Tecnis® ZCT toric IOL (Abbott Medical Optics) as a astigmatic IOL. To determine the IOL power, two
values were measured, and averaged, with an Aviso® (Quantel Medical, Clemont-Ferrand, France) and
using the ultrasonic bonding method and IOL Master® (Carl Zeiss Meditec, Jena, Germany) based on the
principle of partial coherence interferometry. Measurements were performed by a skilled examiner. IOL power was calculated by setting the target refraction to -3 D using the SRK/T formula. The estimated A-Constants were 118.8 for A-scan and 119.3 for IOL Master. IOL cylinder power and alignment axis were measured using a web-based calculation program (http://www.amoeasy.com/calc), which considers keratometry as well as surgically induced astigmatism, which was set to 0.5.

Surgical methods

The patient, once seated, was asked to look straight into the slit lamp microscope, which allowed the calculation of the long-distance fixation point. Reference markers were placed at the 3 and 9 o’clock directions on the corneal limbus using a toric reference corneal marker (AE-2793S, ASICO) just before the surgery. The intended axis of IOL placement was marked on the cornea with a toric axis marker (K3-7910, Katena) with the patient lying down during surgery. All procedures were performed by the same surgeon (E.C.K.), and a 2.75-mm clear corneal incision was made in the direction of the steep axis of astigmatism. Phacoemulsification was performed using the Infinity Vision System® (Alcon Laboratories Inc., Fort Worth, TX, USA) and OZil™ Torsional Handpiece (Alcon Laboratories Inc.) after incision. The remaining viscoelastic materials behind the IOL were removed after implantation of the Tecnis® ZCB00 IOL or Tecnis® ZCT toric IOL into the capsule. In the case of toric IOLs, the IOL axis was rotated until it was positioned parallel to the previously marked. The operation was terminated without corneal suture. No complications, such as rupture of the capsule, occurred during the surgeries and there were no postoperative complications.

Postoperative assessment

Distance (6.0 m) UCVA and BCVA, auto-refraction, keratometry and slit lamp examinations were performed 1-day, 1-week, 1-month, and 2-months postoperatively. Additionally, 33-cm near-distance UCVA was measured 2 months after surgery. In the group that underwent toric IOL implantation, pupil of patients were dilated to visualize the axis of rotation 2 months post-surgery. All VA values are presented on logMAR units.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive statistics were calculated as means and standard deviation and a chi-squared test was used to compare categorical variables. The Kolmogorov–Smimov test was used to test for normality, and the independent t-test was used for intergroup comparisons. A value of P < 0.05 indicated statistical significance. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS for Windows (v. 24.0, IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA).

Results
There were no statistically significant intergroup (toric vs monofocal) differences with respect to age, sex, preoperative refractive astigmatism, or corneal astigmatism (Table 1).

| Parameter                          | Group               | p value* |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Eyes (n)                           | Monofocal IOL: 60   | Toric IOL: 40 |
| IOL model                          | Technis ZCB00       | Technis ZCT toric |
| Sex (M/F)                          | 23/37               | 12/28    |
| Age (years)                        | 64.4 ± 4.64         | 62.7 ± 11.3 |
| Mean UCVA (logMAR)                 | 0.65 ± 0.29         | 0.72 ± 0.28 |
| Mean BCVA (logMAR)                 | 0.40 ± 0.35         | 0.36 ± 0.27 |
| Mean refractive cylinder(D)        | 1.84 ± 0.35         | 2.18 ± 1.00 |
| Mean keratometric cylinder(D)      | 1.82 ± 0.35         | 1.76 ± 1.07 |

IOL, intraocular lens; D, diopters.

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation unless otherwise indicated.

There were no significant differences between two groups in spherical equivalent (p = 0.46, Table 3). UCVA at a distance improved in both groups after cataract surgery, reaching 0.55 ± 0.22 in the monofocal group and 0.38 ± 0.14 in the toric (Fig. 1). The UCVA (0.26 ± 0.33) at a distance of 33 cm in the toric IOL group was significantly better than the UCVA (0.48 ± 0.32) in the monofocal IOL group 2 months after cataract surgery (p = 0.030). The distance UCVA in the toric IOL group (0.38 ± 0.14) was significantly better than the monofocal IOL group (0.55 ± 0.22) (p = 0.026, Fig. 2 and Table 2). There were no significant differences between groups in distance BCVA (p = 0.710, Fig. 3 and Table 2).
Table 2  
Postoperative visual acuity (logMAR) according to treatment group (monofocal, toric).

| Parameter                      | Group                  |  
|-------------------------------|------------------------|  
|                               | Monofocal IOL          | Toric IOL          |  
| Mean distance UCVA            | 0.55 ± 0.22            | 0.38 ± 0.14        | 0.026  
| Mean distance BCVA (logMAR)   | 0.11 ± 0.14            | 0.08 ± 0.08        | 0.710  
| Mean near UCVA (logMAR)       | 0.48 ± 0.32            | 0.26 ± 0.33        | 0.030  

IOL, intraocular lens; UCVA, uncorrected visual acuity; BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation unless indicated otherwise.

Table 3  
Preoperative and postoperative mean residual refractive cylinder (D) and mean residual keratometric cylinder (D) according to treatment group (monofocal, toric).

| Parameter                                      | Group                  |  
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|  
|                                               | Monofocal IOL          | Toric IOL          |  
| Mean residual refractive cylinder (D)         | 1.65 ± 0.77            | 0.80 ± 0.46        | 0.001  
| Mean residual keratometric cylinder (D)       | 1.45 ± 0.64            | 1.50 ± 0.62        | 0.626  

IOL, intraocular lens; D, diopters.

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation unless otherwise indicated.

Spherical equivalent, cornea astigmatism, and refractive astigmatism were analyzed with autorefraction 2 months after surgery. Mean spherical equivalent values are −3.05 ± 0.63 D in the monofocal and −3.23 ± 0.85 D in the toric. Corneal astigmatism values in the monofocal and toric IOL groups were 1.45 ± 0.64 D and 1.50 ± 0.62 D, respectively, at that time. While there were no statistically significant differences in spherical equivalent (p = 0.465) and corneal astigmatism (p = 0.626), the refractive astigmatism in the toric IOL groups (0.80 ± 0.46 D) was significantly lower than in the monofocal groups (1.65 ± 0.77 D, p = 0.001; Fig. 2 and Table 3).

**Discussion**

A number of studies have reported the influence of astigmatism on visual function. Several studies have shown that retaining some of myopic astigmatism of against-the-rule would increases the depth of focus and increases near VA, without decreasing distance VA, in case the astigmatism cannot be corrected perfectly when cataract surgery for emmetropia is conducted [1] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12]. However, studies are increasing about adverse effects of astigmatism on visual function. Kamiya et al. [13] reported that uncorrected distant VA was better in eyes with less astigmatism. Wolffsohn et al. [14] reported that even if the uncorrected astigmatism is as small as 1D, it would significantly diminish the VA and affect the
patient's independence and quality of life. Wiggins and Daum [15] reported that patients with 0.50D of uncorrected cylinder complained of more eye fatigue and discomfort than well corrected patients when using a visual display terminal. Rosenfield et al. [16] suggested that small astigmatism should be corrected for comfort when working on a computer. Kazuhiro et al. [17] reported that visual function is affected by astigmatism even when conventional VA is good, irrespective of the axes of astigmatism. Singh et al. [1] recently investigated the relationship between uncorrected astigmatism and VA in pseudophakia. They reported that uncorrected myopic astigmatism of more than 1 D results in a large loss of distance VA, without additional benefit to near VA, and that uncorrected hyperopic astigmatism results in deterioration of both distance and near VAs. They also showed that myopic astigmatism decreased VA by 0.31 (logMAR) per diopter regardless of the direction of the astigmatism axis and 0.23 (logMAR) per diopter for hyperopic astigmatism in emmetropic pseudophakia. Hasegawa et al. [18] reported that astigmatic defocus deteriorates contrast sensitivity.

The current study showed significant differences between monofocal and toric IOLs, with distant UCVA of 0.55 logMAR with monofocal IOLs and 0.38 logMAR with toric IOLs, 2 months postoperatively.

Therefore, implantation of a toric IOL is strongly recommended for patients with both cataract and corneal astigmatism [19] [20]. However, myopic patients who determined to nearsighted target such as -3D have to wear spectacle as usual after surgery, so the remaining astigmatism can be corrected by spectacle. Therefore, toric IOL is not actively recommended in such cases. However, these patients do not always wear spectacle at home and they often take them off when taking a shower or reading a book. The uncorrected visual acuity can be quite important considering that times without spectacle is not short at home.

According to a study by Nael et al [21] on activity limitations due to decreased VA, 17.9% or those whose distance Snellen VA is better than 20/63–20/60 (0.3–0.5 log MAR) have limitations with regard to activities of daily living (ADL) [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] such as dressing, washing, toileting, and eating, whereas nearly twice as many (32.2%) of those who have VA worse than 20/63 (0.5 logMAR) have ADL limitations.

Myopia is a very common ophthalmologic disease, and its prevalence is increasing worldwide. Considering educational activities, continuous urbanization, and westernization, it is estimated that the prevalence of myopia will continue to increase [27] [28]. Myopic patients are increasingly undergoing cataract surgery; therefore, consultation on toric IOL with myopic target refraction is likely to increase. Based on the results of this study, we recommend toric IOL implantation in such patients to offer better quality of life after cataract surgery.

In conclusion, implantation of a toric IOL was superior to monofocal IOL in terms of UCVA in both near and distance for cataract patients with astigmatism even when target refraction power is determined to myopia. This may be meaningful for future clinical applications. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to quantify it.
Abbreviations

IOL
Intraocular lens
UCVA
Uncorrected visual acuity
BCVA
Best corrected visual acuity

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards at the Bucheon St. Mary’s Hospital and followed the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request

Competing interests

None

Funding

This research was supported by Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education (2018R1D1A1A02085334)

Author contributions

Study concept and design: ECK; data collection DYS; analysis and interpretation of the data: DYS and ECK; writing the manuscript: DYS and ECK; critical revision of the manuscript: DYS, HSK, MSK, and ECK; statistical expertise: DYS and ECK; administrative, technical, or material support: ECK; supervision: ECK.
Acknowledgements

This research was supported by Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education (2018R1D1A1A02085334)

References

1. Singh A, Pesala V, Garg P, Bharadwaj SR. Relation between uncorrected astigmatism and visual acuity in pseudophakia. Optom Vis Sci. 2013;90:378–84.
2. Yu JG, Zhong J, Mei ZM, Zhao F, Tao N, Xiang Y. Evaluation of biometry and corneal astigmatism in cataract surgery patients from Central China. BMC Ophthalmol. 2017;17:56.
3. Prasher P, Sandhu JS. Prevalence of corneal astigmatism before cataract surgery in Indian population. Int Ophthalmol. 2017;37:683–9.
4. Curragh DS, Hassett P. Prevalence of Corneal Astigmatism in an NHS Cataract Surgery Practice in Northern Ireland. Ulster Med J. 2017;86:25–7.
5. Rubenstein JB, Raciti M. Approaches to corneal astigmatism in cataract surgery. Curr Opin Ophthalmol. 2013;24:30–4.
6. Hirnschall N, Gangwani V, Crnej A, Koshy J, Maurino V, Findl O. Correction of moderate corneal astigmatism during cataract surgery: toric intraocular lens versus peripheral corneal relaxing incisions. J Cataract Refract Surg. 2014;40:354–61.
7. Pineda R, Denevich S, Lee WC, Waycaster C, Pashos CL. Economic evaluation of toric intraocular lens: a short- and long-term decision analytic model. Arch Ophthalmol. 2010;128:834–40.
8. Huber C. Planned myopic astigmatism as a substitute for accommodation in pseudophakia. J Am Intraocul Implant Soc. 1981;7:244–9.
9. Nagpal KM, Desai C, Trivedi RH, Vasavada AR. Is pseudophakic astigmatism a desirable goal? Indian J Ophthalmol. 2000;48:213–6.
10. Nanavaty MA, Vasavada AR, Patel AS, Raj SM, Desai TH. Analysis of patients with good uncorrected distance and near vision after monofocal intraocular lens implantation. J Cataract Refract Surg. 2006;32:1091–7.
11. Trindade F, Oliveira A, Frasson M. Benefit of against-the-rule astigmatism to uncorrected near acuity. J Cataract Refract Surg. 1997;23:82–5.
12. Verzella F, Calossi A. Multifocal effect of against-the-rule myopic astigmatism in pseudophakic eyes. Refract Corneal Surg. 1993;9:58–61.
13. Kamiya K, Kobashi H, Shimizu K, Kawamorita T, Uozato H. Effect of pupil size on uncorrected visual acuity in astigmatic eyes. Br J Ophthalmol. 2012;96:267–70.
14. Wolffsohn JS, Bhogal G, Shah S. Effect of uncorrected astigmatism on vision. J Cataract Refract Surg. 2011;37:454–60.
15. Wiggins NP, Daum KM. Visual discomfort and astigmatic refractive errors in VDT use. J Am Optom Assoc. 1991;62:680–4.
16. Rosenfield M, Hue JE, Huang RR, Bababekova Y. The effects of induced oblique astigmatism on symptoms and reading performance while viewing a computer screen. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2012;32:142–8.
17. Watanabe K, Negishi K, Kawai M, Torii H, Kaido M, Tsubota K. Effect of experimentally induced astigmatism on functional, conventional, and low-contrast visual acuity. J Refract Surg. 2013;29:19–24.
18. Hasegawa Y, Hiraoka T, Nakano S, Okamoto F, Oshika T. Effects of astigmatic defocus on binocular contrast sensitivity. PLoS One. 2018;13:e0202340.
19. Horn JD. Status of toric intraocular lenses. Curr Opin Ophthalmol. 2007;18:58–61.
20. Buscacio ES, Patrao LF, de Moraes HV. Jr. Refractive and Quality of Vision Outcomes with Toric IOL Implantation in Low Astigmatism. J Ophthalmol. 2016;2016:5424713.
21. Nael V, Peres K, Carriere I, Daien V, Scherlen AC, Arleo A, et al. Visual Impairment, Undercorrected Refractive Errors, and Activity Limitations in Older Adults: Findings From the Three-City Alienor Study. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2017;58:2359–65.
22. Daien V, Peres K, Villain M, Colvez A, Carriere I, Delcourt C. Visual acuity thresholds associated with activity limitations in the elderly. The Pathologies Oculaires Liees a l'Age study. Acta Ophthalmol. 2014;92:e500-6.
23. Laitinen A, Sainio P, Koskinen S, Rudanko SL, Laatikainen L, Aromaa A. The association between visual acuity and functional limitations: findings from a nationally representative population survey. Ophthalmic Epidemiol. 2007;14:333–42.
24. Owsley C, McGwin G Jr, Sloane ME, Stalvey BT, Wells J. Timed instrumental activities of daily living tasks: relationship to visual function in older adults. Optom Vis Sci. 2001;78:350–9.
25. Berger S, Porell F. The association between low vision and function. J Aging Health. 2008;20:504–25.
26. Griffith L, Raina P, Wu H, Zhu B, Stathokostas L. Population attributable risk for functional disability associated with chronic conditions in Canadian older adults. Age Ageing. 2010;39:738–45.
27. Holden BA, Fricke TR, Wilson DA, Jong M, Naidoo KS, Sankaridurg P, et al. Global Prevalence of Myopia and High Myopia and Temporal Trends from 2000 through 2050. Ophthalmology. 2016;123:1036–42.
28. Lee SJ, Urm SH, Yu BC, Sohn HS, Hong YS, Noh MS, et al. [The prevalence of high myopia in 19 year-old men in Busan, Ulsan and Gyeongsangnam-do]. J Prev Med Public Health. 2011;44:56–64.

Figures
Figure 1

Pre and postoperative distant UCVA (logMAR) of treatment groups (monofocal, toric). UCVA, uncorrected distance visual acuity; POD, postoperative day.

Figure 2

Number of eyes according to postoperative distant UCVA (logMAR) in two treatment groups (monofocal, toric IOL). UCVA, uncorrected distance visual acuity; POD, postoperative day.
Figure 3

Pre and postoperative mean residual refractive cylinder (D) and mean residual keratometric cylinder (D) of treatment groups (monofocal, toric). POD, postoperative day.