Efficacy and safety of trabeculectomy versus peripheral iridectomy plus goniotomy in advanced primary angle-closure glaucoma: study protocol for a multicentre, non-inferiority, randomised controlled trial (the TVG study)

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ABSTRACT

Introduction Primary angle-closure glaucoma (PACG) is a major subtype of glaucoma that accounts for most bilateral glaucoma-related blindness globally. Filtering surgery is a conventional strategy for PACG, yet it has a long learning curve and undesirable disastrous complications. Minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) plays an increasing role in the management of glaucoma due to its safer and faster recovery profile; cataract surgery-based MIGS is the most commonly performed such procedure in PACG. However, for patients with a transparent lens or no indications for cataract extraction, incorporation of MIGS into PACG treatment has not yet been reported. Therefore, this multicentre, non-inferiority, randomised controlled clinical trial aims to compare the efficacy and safety of trabeculectomy versus peripheral iridectomy plus an ab interno goniotomy in advanced PACG with no or mild cataracts.

Methods and analysis This non-inferiority, multicentre, randomised controlled trial will be conducted at seven ophthalmic departments and institutes across China. Eighty-eight patients with no or mild cataracts and advanced PACG will be enrolled and randomised to undergo trabeculectomy or peripheral iridectomy plus ab interno goniotomy. Enrolled patients will undergo comprehensive ophthalmic examinations before and after surgery. The primary outcome is intraocular pressure (IOP) at 12 months postoperatively. The secondary outcomes are cumulative success rate of surgery, surgery-related complications and number of IOP-lowering medications. Participants will be followed up for 36 months postoperatively.

Ethics and dissemination The study protocol was approved by the ethical committees of the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University, China (ID: 2021KYPJ191) and of all subcentres. All participants will be required to provide written informed consent. The results will be published in peer-reviewed journals and disseminated in international academic meetings.

Strengths and limitations of this study

- Randomisation prevents selection bias and increases comparability between two study arms.
- Participants are recruited from multiple centres, which will lead to a shorter study duration and increased generalisability.
- An extended follow-up will provide valuable longer-term evidence.
- The study only recruits participants aged 45–80 years, which will limit generalisability to younger patients.

Trial registration number NCT05163951.

INTRODUCTION

Primary angle-closure glaucoma (PACG) is an important subtype of glaucoma and is responsible for 50% of glaucoma-related blindness worldwide. PACG has a high prevalence and blindness rate in Asia, especially in China. It is of great importance to continuously advance treatment strategy that is safer, easier, faster, more favourable and less complicated.

The routine treatment regimen for advanced PACG is surgery, of which trabeculectomy or phacotrabeculectomy is the most popular. However, there are many issues associated with trabeculectomy, such as complications of a shallow anterior chamber, persistent hypotony, malignant glaucoma, endophthalmitis and bleb-related complications, a long learning curve for ophthalmologists, and difficulty with postoperative...
care; therefore, it is not an ideal surgical method.\(^5\)\(^-\)\(^8\) Lens extraction, for example, phacoemulsification with intraocular lens implantation (PEI), is used as a safer alternative to treat PACG.\(^9\) The anterior chamber can be deepened and widened to facilitate aqueous humour outflow. Goniosynechialysis (GSL) is combined when extensive peripheral anterior synchia (PAS) exists; however, clinical studies have reported insufficient or no additive intraocular pressure (IOP) reduction of GSL.\(^10\)

The diseased trabecular meshwork and the Schlemm’s canal due to chronic adhesion, inflammation and fibrous tissue hyperplasia during the progression of angle closure could explain this.\(^11\)\(^12\) Adjunctive antiglaucoma medications or surgeries are needed.

Minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) has been successfully incorporated in clinical practice in recent years, and although initially used in primary open-angle glaucoma it has now been attempted in PACG in a PEI-based manner.\(^13\)\(^-\)\(^15\) After PEI, MIGS including goniotomy (GT), implantation of bypass and endocycloplasty can be performed as just as in primary open-angle glaucoma with its advantages being having a safe profile, faster recovery and relatively few complications.\(^16\)\(^-\)\(^18\) Additive IOP-lowering is thus obtained for advanced PACG. GT, the most popular type of MIGS, has been successfully adopted for PACG using Kahook Dual Blade,\(^19\)\(^-\)\(^21\) Tanito Microhook,\(^22\)\(^23\) or other microhooks or gonioscopy-assisted transluminal trabeculotomy.\(^24\)\(^-\)\(^26\) However, the evidence was mainly retrospective.\(^27\)

An ongoing randomised controlled trial (RCT) is comparing phacotrabeculectomy and phacogoniotomy (PEI+GSL+GT) (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT04878458).\(^28\)

For patients with no or mild cataracts, removal of the lens remains controversial.\(^29\) Theoretically, it is possible to choose surgical peripheral iridectomy (SPI) instead of PEI to eliminate the pupillary block in PACG. The application of a viscoelastic substance can deepen the anterior chamber, facilitating the performance of GSL and GT. On the other hand, SPI, along with postoperative antiglaucoma eye-drops, is a strategy to avoid the complications of filtration surgery, especially in young patients with PACG who have a short axial length.\(^30\)\(^31\) The combined procedure of GT can lower IOP and reduce IOP-lowering medications.

Herein, we intend to conduct a collaboration of seven top-ranked ophthalmic departments and institutes across China and perform a non-inferiority RCT to compare trabeculectomy with SPI+GSL+GT in terms of efficacy and safety for treatment of advanced PACG with no or mild cataracts.

**METHODS AND ANALYSIS**

**Objective**

This study aims to compare the efficacy and safety of trabeculectomy with SPI+GSL+GT for treatment of advanced PACG with no or mild cataracts.

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**Design and setting**

This is a multicentre, parallel-assignment, open-labelled, non-inferiority RCT. This study will be conducted at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University, as the principal centre, in partnership with six other hospitals and eye institutes, as subcentres, including Handan City Eye Hospital (The Third Hospital of Handan); Department of Ophthalmology, West China Hospital of Sichuan University; Department of Ophthalmology, The Second Affiliated Hospital, Harbin Medical University; Department of Ophthalmology, The Third Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University; Department of Ophthalmology, Shijiazhuang People’s Hospital; and Department of Ophthalmology, People’s Hospital of Chongqing. Figure 1 summarises the trial design along with the details of the trabeculectomy versus peripheral iridectomy plus goniotomy (TVG) study.

**Eligibility**

### Inclusion criteria

- Age 45–80 years.
- Eyes diagnosed with advanced PACG meeting criteria 1, 2 and 3, or criteria 1, 2 and 4: (1) PAS ≥180° range, including the nasal and inferior quadrants; (2) IOP >21 mm Hg with or without antiglaucoma medications (medications include maximally tolerated medications), taken with the Goldmann applanation tonometer; (3) glaucomatous optic neuropathy (cup to disc (C:D) ratio ≥0.7, C:D asymmetry >0.2, or rim width at the superior and inferior temporal areas <0.1 of the vertical diameters of the optic disc); and (4) glaucomatous visual field defects (nasal step, arcuate scotoma and paracentral scotoma on a reliable Humphrey analyser and a mean deviation of ≤−12 dB).
- No or mild cataracts and uncorrected visual acuity of ≥0.63 (Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study chart).
- Axial length of ≥20 mm.
Exclusion criteria

- History of ocular surgery or trauma.
- Retinal disease that influences the collection of ocular parameters or other types of glaucoma, including open-angle glaucoma, secondary angle-closure glaucoma, steroid glaucoma, angle recession glaucoma, neovascular glaucoma, nanophthalmos and pseudoexfoliation syndrome.
- Monophthalmia (best-corrected visual acuity of <0.01 in the non-study eye).
- An international standardised ratio of >3.0 for patients receiving warfarin or anticoagulant therapy before surgery.
- Patients with serious systemic diseases.
- Pregnant or lactating women.

If both eyes are eligible for the study, the eye with the worse visual field or optic nerve will be included.

Recruitment

This is a multicentre study. All the subcentres are tertiary hospitals in China. The first screening will be conducted at the outpatient clinics of all subcentres. Once the eligibility criteria are met, the trial will proceed further.

Intervention allocation

A central randomisation system will be used to generate a random allocation sequence with a block size of four patients for each subcentre. The participants in each block unit will be evenly assigned (1:1) to the control group (trabeculectomy) and the experimental group (SPI+GSL+GT).

Masking

This study has an open design because the experimental and control groups have been assigned different surgical interventions and the doctors and patients cannot be masked. The examiners will be blinded to the groups during the screening, allocation and follow-up. The statisticians will be unaware of the randomisation results until completion of the statistical analysis.

Intervention methods

Professors or senior attending physicians who have more than 10 years’ training will perform the same standard surgical technique designed for each group.

Preoperative medication

- Topical IOP-lowering medications will be used until the day of surgery.
- Osmotic agents such as mannitol will be used before surgery, if needed.
- Antibiotic drops such as levofloxacin eye-drops will be used 3 days before surgery to minimise the risk of endophthalmitis.

Anaesthesia

Either local anaesthesia or general anaesthesia will be used according to the standard clinical routine.

Control group (trabeculectomy with mitomycin C)

All patients in the control group will undergo standard trabeculectomy. The incision will be made along the corneal limbus (11–1 o’clock position) to raise a curved fornix-based conjunctival flap. A superficial (12 o’clock position) scleral flap of 4×3 mm and a half or two-third thickness will be raised, and mitomycin-soaked sponges (0.2–0.5 mg/mL) will be applied under the flap and conjunctiva for 1–5 min. The area will be subsequently rinsed thoroughly with 200 mL of balanced salt solution. Trabeculectomy involving the excision of a trabecular block measuring approximately 1×2 mm in size is performed, followed by an SPI with an area of approximately 1.5×1.5 mm. The scleral flap will then be replaced and closed with two 10-0 nylon sutures. The anterior chamber will be constructed using balanced salt solution with the appropriate filtered volume, and the bulbar conjunctiva will be closed using 10-0 interrupted sutures.

Intervention group (SPI+GSL+GT)

SPI will be performed. A conjunctival incision of approximately 2 mm will be made superior-nasally along the corneal limbus, and a full-thickness self-sealing corneal incision will be made with a 15° scalpel. To press the posterior lip of the corneal incision for herniation of the peripheral iris tissue from the corneal incision, a full-thickness iris tissue with an area of approximately 1.5×1.5 mm will be cut using corneal scissors. A main transparent corneal incision of approximately 2.2 mm will be made at the temporal quadrant or superior temporal quadrant, and the viscoelastic agent (eg, IVIZ, Bausch & Lomb; DisCoVisc, Alcon) will be injected to deepen the anterior chamber. The patient’s head will be rotated 35°–45° away from the surgeon, and the microscope will be tilted at an angle of 35°–45° towards the operator. Following this, the viscoelastic agent will be applied on the corneal surface. A close observation of the angle, and in particular the trabecular meshwork, can be made using a surgical gonioscope placed on the cornea. GSL will be completed by separating all the PAS down gently as much as possible with a chopper. A microhook or microblade will then be inserted through the main incision of the cornea into the anterior chamber, with the tip embedded into the Schlemm’s canal to scratch and incise the inner wall of the Schlemm’s canal and trabecular meshwork at a range of at least 120°. After aspirating the viscoelastic material and the blood, the corneal incision will be sealed by stromal hydration. Figure 2 presents the schematic of the two manners of SPI+GSL+GT.

Postoperative management

- Topical 1% prednisone acetate eye-drops will be administered four times a day and steroid ointment will be administered once at bedtime for 1 month for the trabeculectomy group. For the SPI+GSL+GT group, 1% prednisone acetate eye-drops will be administered for 1 week, followed by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory eye-drops for 3 weeks, and 1%...
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Gao X, et al. BMJ Open 2022;12:e062441. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2022-062441

pilocarpine eye-drops will be administered four times a day for 1 month.

► An intramuscular injection of 2 KU hemocoagulase will be administered to individuals in both groups before and after surgery.

► If glucocorticoids cause increased IOP, the participant will be assessed and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory eye-drops will be administered for 1 week, along with stoppage of steroid medications. If the IOP remains uncontrolled for more than 1 week, the participant will be excluded from the study.

► If the IOP is >18 mm Hg after surgery, topical antiglaucoma medication will be administered. In the trabeculectomy group, ocular massage, releasable suture lysis or laser suture lysis will be performed by the attending ophthalmologist, if needed.

► The topical medication will consist of eye-drops according to local practice from the following list of medications: prostaglandin, beta-blocker, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and alpha-2 agonist. A maximum of four drugs with different mechanisms will be used.

► After medical antiglaucoma therapy fails to control IOP for 3 months, glaucoma surgery will be performed. The need for glaucoma surgery will be qualified as a ‘failure’ of the intervention/control care to control the disease. Patients will be excluded from the study.

► If an intervention/control procedure is not performed successfully intraoperatively, the patient will be excluded from the study and receive further treatment after assessment.

The schematic of the postoperative management is shown in figure 3.

Figure 2 Schematic of the two manners of SPI+GSL+GT. SPI at the superior nasal quadrant of the corneal limbus will be carried out, where an oval shadow indicates SPI; the incision is made at the temporal (A) or superior temporal (B) quadrant. GSL and GT will be carried out within a 120° range at the nasal (A) or inferior nasal (B) quadrant of the angle, where a short red line indicates the corneal incision and an arc line indicates an incision range (a chopper is used for GSL; a microhook or microblade is used for GT). GSL, goniopneumohialysis; GT, goniotomy; SPI, surgical peripheral iridectomy.

Figure 3 Flow chart showing the postoperative management. GSL, goniopneumohialysis; GT, goniotomy; IOP, intraocular pressure; SPI, surgical peripheral iridectomy.

Outcome measurement

Primary outcome

► IOP at 12 months after surgery.

Secondary outcomes

► Cumulative success rate of the surgery: (1) complete success will be defined as a postoperative IOP of ≥5 mm Hg or ≤18 mm Hg and a 20% reduction from baseline without antiglaucoma medications; and (2) qualified success will be defined as a postoperative IOP of ≥5 mm Hg or ≤18 mm Hg and a 20% reduction from baseline with antiglaucoma medications.

► Intraoperative and postoperative complications (eg, shallow anterior chamber, malignant glaucoma, hyphema, persistent hypotony, corneal endothelium decompensation, endophthalmitis and bleb-related complications).

► Number of antiglaucoma medications.

Other prespecified and exploratory outcomes

► Visual acuity.

► Degree of PAS.

► Corneal endothelial cell counting.

► Visual field.

► Optic nerve head and retinal parameters derived from optical coherence tomography (OCT).

► Quality of life.

► Filtering bleb classification using the Indiana Bleb Appearance Grading Scale.32

► Surgical time and cost.

Examinations

The following are the baseline data and follow-up examination parameters:

► Demographic data, including name, identity number and sex.

► Medical history, surgical history and current medication.

► Vital signs, height and weight.

► Optometry and visual acuity: using the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study logarithm of the minimum angle of resolution visual acuity chart (Precision Vision, Villa Park, Illinois, USA), in accordance with the Refractive Error Study in Children research protocol.33
Slit lamp and fundus examinations (BQ-900, Haag Streit, Koeniz, Switzerland).

Fundus photography using a fundus camera.

IOP measurement: each visit requires IOP evaluations in both eyes and the average of the two measurements will be taken using Goldmann applanation tonometry (AT900, Haag Streit).

Endothelial cell count using endokeratoscope (SP-2000P, Topcon, Japan).

Gonioscope: a single-mirror gonioscope (Ocular Instruments, Bellevue, Washington, USA) will be used for grading according to the Shaffer classification method.

Ultrasound biomicroscopy examination to visualise the morphology of the anterior segment.

A spectral domain OCT (Cirrus 5000, Carl Zeiss Meditec, USA; or Heidelberg SPECTRALIS OCT, Heidelberg, Germany) will be used (each subcentre can choose the instrument).

Visual field examination will be performed using the Swedish interactive threshold algorithm standard 24-2 program by Humphrey Field Analyzer (Mark 2/3, Carl Zeiss Meditec, Dublin, California, USA). It is required to report a false positive rate of <15%, false negative rate of <15% and fixation loss of <20%. The mean deviation and pattern SD values will be recorded.

Quality of life assessment using the 5-level EQ-5D version (EQ-5D-5L, simplified Chinese, EuroQol Research Foundation, registered).

Anterior OCT examination will be performed using CASIA OCT (Tomey, Tokyo, Japan) to examine the angle structure and measure the depth of the anterior chamber.

Pentacam examination (Oculus, Germany) will be performed to measure the biological parameters of the patient’s corneal curvature, corneal spherical aberration, corneal astigmatism, etc.

Table 1  Follow-up schedule

| Visit number | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inspection items | −7 to 1 day | 7 days | 1 month | 3 months | 6 months | 12 months* | 18 months | 24 months | 30 months | 36 months |
| Informed consent | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Demographic data and medical history | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Vital signs | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Medication record | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Optometry | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Visual acuity | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Slit lamp biomicroscopy | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Fundus photo | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Intraocular pressure | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Endokeratoscope | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Gonioscopy | X | | | | | | | | | |
| UBM | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Anterior segment OCT† | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Posterior segment OCT | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Visual field | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Pentacam† | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Quality of life questionnaire | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Adverse events | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

X indicates data need to be collected during the visit.

*End-of-study follow-up showed that the main study outcome had been achieved; from the second visit, the time window of each visit was ±7 days.

†The inspection subcentres shown can choose by themselves.

OCT, optical coherence tomography; UBM, ultrasound biomicroscopy.
For both treatment groups, as previously reported. To practice. A common SD (as 4.0 mm Hg, which will be acceptable in clinical practice. Therefore, the non-inferiority margin (Δ) will be specified as 4.0 mm Hg, which will be acceptable in clinical practice. A common SD (σ) of 5 mm Hg will be employed for both treatment groups, as previously reported. To achieve a power of 90%, at a one-sided significance level (α) of 2.5%, a sample size of 34 eyes from 34 participants per group will be required. Allowing for a 20% loss to follow-up, a sample size of 88 eyes from 88 participants will be necessary. The sample size was calculated using PASS V.16.0 (NCSS, USA).

Monitoring

Data monitoring
Data monitoring will be performed by a professional data administrator at the clinical research centre of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center and will be independent of the researchers.

Interim analysis
Interim analyses will not be performed.

Harms
The risks include uncontrolled IOP, occurrence or aggravation of cataract, endophthalmitis and hyphema, and adverse effects of general anaesthesia and topical medications, which are common risks in clinical practice.

Auditing
The study will be conducted by the supervisor of the trial, will not involve new drugs or devices, and will be conducted under the guidance of the ethics committees of all subcentres.

Data collection and management
All the original data will be stored in the electronic data capture system, and only the centres will have access to their data. All raw data must be kept by the researcher in the participant’s file. Any changes in the raw data will be documented in the electronic data capture system.

Statistical analysis plan
All statistical analyses will be performed using a commercially available software package (Stata V.16). Histogram and Shapiro-Wilk tests will be employed to check the normality of continuous data. Continuous variables will be described as mean (SD) with normal distribution and median (IQR) without normal distribution. Categorical variables will be presented as frequencies (percentages).

The baseline characteristics of the two study groups will be compared first. A two-sample t-test will be employed for continuous variables if normally distributed, otherwise using the Mann-Whitney U test. The χ² test or Fisher’s exact test will be employed to compare categorical outcomes.

Analyses of the primary and secondary outcomes will be based on the principles of intent to treat and will include all participants who are randomised and receive surgery, where the missing data will be imputed by multiple imputations, regardless of complications or further surgical interventions.

Primary outcome analysis
The mean difference in IOP at 12 months between the control and study groups and the 95% CI will be estimated using univariable and multivariable linear regression models. For the non-inferiority test, the hypothesis of inferiority will be rejected when the upper limit of the one-sided 97.5% CI (equal to two-sided 95%) of the difference in IOP is less than the prespecified non-inferiority margin (4 mm Hg). Variables that will be significantly associated with the difference in IOP between both groups (p<0.02) will be included in the multivariate linear regression analysis.

Secondary outcome analysis
The cumulative rate of surgical success and complications between both groups will be assessed using the χ² test or Fisher’s exact test. The stratified Kaplan-Meier survival curves and log-rank test will also be employed to show the cumulative probability and the time to the incidence of unsuccessful surgery over time in each group. Unsuccessful surgery will be defined as an IOP of >18 mm Hg or ≤20% reduction below the baseline during two consecutive follow-up visits after 3 months, an IOP of ≤5 mm Hg during two consecutive follow-up visits after 3 months, reoperation for glaucoma or loss of light perception vision. Other secondary outcomes will be assessed using two-sided tests. The detailed method will be as mentioned above in the baseline data analysis. Statistical significance will be set at p<0.05.

Study completion and termination
Criteria of completion
The primary outcome endpoint will be 1 year, although when the study is completed the investigator will hold a clinical study report meeting and revise and sign the final clinical study report. The investigator will report the completion of the study to the ethics committee.

Participants will be withdrawn from the study for the following reasons: safety, participation in other clinical trials, severe adverse events occurring during the study and surgical failure.

Patient and public involvement
There is no patient or public involvement.
ETHICS AND DISSEMINATION

Ethics approval
Ethical approval has been obtained from the ethical committees of the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University, China (ID: 2021KYJP-191; version 20211124) and of all subcentres. The registration identifiers of other centres are listed as follows: Handan City Eye Hospital (The Third Hospital of Handan) (ID: 2021007); West China Hospital of Sichuan University (ID: 2022(39)); the Second Affiliated Hospital, Harbin Medical University (ID: KY2021-395); Shijiazhuang People’s Hospital (ID: 2022(009)); The Third Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University (ID: 2022(2)); and People’s Hospital of Chongqing (ID: KYS2022-001-01).

Informed consent
Researchers must obtain signed informed consent to confirm that the participants fully understand the content of the study and participate voluntarily before the trial begins (online supplemental material 1).

Confidentiality
The contents of this clinical study are confidential. Any information about this study, including study design, methods, results, etc, is within the scope of confidentiality and cannot be discussed with persons outside the study.

Dissemination policy
The results will be published in peer-reviewed journals and disseminated in international academic meetings.

Study status
Recruitment of the study began on 5 January 2022 and the planned recruitment completion date is June 2023. The study completes in June 2026.

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Acknowledgements
We thank all the research assistants and nursing staff who contributed to the practical organisation and execution of this study.

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Contributors
Xiang, SF, LT, HY, XN, GT and LX participated in the study design. XG and AL cowrote the protocol draft. LJ and WS helped with sample size calculation and were the statistical consultants. FL, HZ, YZ, YS, PL, Xzu, KH, YngZ, YP and ML helped review the protocol draft. The authors from all centres agreed to publish the protocol on behalf of the ‘trabeculectomy versus peripheral iridectomy plus goniotomy (TVG) study group’.

Funding
This research is supported by the Science and Technology Program of Guangzhou, China (20211124) and of all subcentres. The registration identifier is non-commercial.

Competing interests
None declared.

Patient and public involvement
Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of this research.

Patient consent for publication
Not required.

Provenance and peer review
Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Supplemental material
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Informed Consent · Informed Notification

Dear subjects:

You are diagnosed with "primary angle-closure glaucoma" and need surgery. We sincerely invite you to participate in a randomized controlled clinical trial of the efficacy and safety of trabeculectomy versus peripheral iridectomy plus goniotomy in the treatment of advanced primary angle-closure glaucoma. The study will be conducted at Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center (ZOC), Sun Yat-sen University as the principal center, in joint partnership with six other hospitals and eye institutes, including the Handan City Eye Hospital (The Third Hospital of Handan), West China Hospital of Sichuan University, the Second Affiliated Hospital, Harbin Medical University, Shijiazhuang People’s Hospital, the Third Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, and the People's Hospital of Chongqing, as the subcenters. The above-mentioned units are all domestic high-level ophthalmic units that can provide professional and adequate medical security for subjects.

This informed consent will provide you with information to help you decide whether to participate in the study. Please read it carefully and talk to the investigator if you have any relevant questions.

Participation in the study is voluntary. The study protocol has been reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University.

1. Why is this study being conducted?

Glaucoma is the first irreversible blinding eye disease in the world. Primary angle closure glaucoma (PACG) is a common and frequently occurring disease in Asia, particularly in China, with high morbidity and blinding rates. The first-line treatment for PACG is surgical treatment, and one of the preferred options for advanced PACG is trabeculectomy, which has been clinically performed for decades and has saved the sight of many patients. With the modernization and iteration of surgical techniques, minimally invasive glaucoma surgery has developed rapidly. Peripheral iridectomy plus goniotomy has achieved good efficacy in the treatment of PACG and is favored by physicians and patients owing to its advantages of less injury, fewer adverse effects and complications, and faster postoperative recovery. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct research in this area to provide a better surgical treatment plan for patients with PACG by comparing the efficacy and safety of traditional surgery and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery.

2. Who is suitable for the study?

• Inclusion criteria
a. Aged 45–80 years,

b. Eyes diagnosed with advanced PACG that meet the following criteria: (1) (2) (3) or (1) (2) (4),

(1) PAS: $\geq 180^\circ$ range, including nasal and inferior quadrants

(2) IOP $> 21$ mmHg with or without anti-glaucoma medications, obtained with the Goldmann applanation tonometer

(3) Glaucomatous optic neuropathy (cup-to-disc [C/D] ratio $\geq 0.7$, C/D asymmetry $> 0.2$, or rim width at the superior and inferior temporal areas $< 0.1$ of the vertical diameter of the optic disc)

(4) Glaucomatous visual field defects (nasal step, arcuate scotoma, and paracentral scotoma on a reliable Humphrey analyzer and a mean deviation of $\leq -12$ dB)

c. Transparent crystalline lens and uncorrected visual acuity $\geq 0.63$ (Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study chart), and

d. Axial length of $\geq 20$ mm

- **Exclusion criteria**

  a. History of ocular surgery or trauma,

  b. Retinal diseases that influence the collection of ocular parameters or other types of glaucoma, including open-angle glaucoma, secondary angle-closure glaucoma, stertoidal glaucoma, angle-recession glaucoma, neovascular glaucoma, nanophthalmos, and pseudoexfoliation syndrome,

  c. Monophthalmia (best-corrected visual acuity $< 0.01$ in the non-study eye),

  d. An International Standardized Ratio of $> 3.0$ for patients receiving warfarin or anticoagulant therapy before surgery,

  e. Patients with serious systemic diseases, and

  f. Pregnant or lactating women

* If both eyes are eligible for the study, the eye with the worse visual field or optic nerve will be included.

3. **How is this study conducted?**

**Recruitment:** This is a multicenter study, and the study subjects will be recruited from the general clinic or glaucoma specialist outpatient clinic. Patients make outpatient appointments on the Internet and then complete the screening in the outpatient clinics. If a patient requires surgery for the treatment of PACG, he/she will be automatically approached by the clinical research coordinator to assess compliance with the inclusion and exclusion criteria.
**Sample size:** This is a multicenter study in China, with 16 patients from the main center and 12 patients from the six subcenters.

Once you have been diagnosed with advanced PACG, we will explain this to you. If you agree to participate in this study, we will collect your information and relevant results as required after you sign the informed consent form.

The study process is as follows:
(1) Informed consent and screening.
(2) The study physician will select the eye for surgery according to the study protocol
(3) Randomization*: Patients will be randomly assigned 1:1 to receive either trabeculectomy or peripheral iridectomy plus goniotomy.
(4) Complete routine pre-operative examinations
(5) Both surgical methods have been used in clinical practice for many years and are performed strictly in accordance with standard surgical techniques.
(6) Postoperative medication and re-examinations will be performed according to the study protocol.
(7) Postoperative follow-up examination constitutes: seven follow-ups and examinations as follows: day 1, day 7, month 1, month 3, month 6, and month 12. With your consent, the follow-up can be extended to 3 years.
(8) Postoperative examination items include visual acuity test, automatic optometry, intraocular pressure using a Goldmann applanation tonometer, gonioscopy, visual field test, fundus photography, optical coherence tomography, ocular bioparameters, and the quality of life questionnaire.
(9) During the study, we will observe changes in your condition at any time and adjust the follow-up plan in time to protect your rights and safety.

*Both surgical methods have been widely used in clinical practice and can effectively reduce the intraocular pressure of patients for years. Therefore, randomization to either group can achieve the treatment goal.*
4. What do I need to do to participate in the study?
(1) Understand the study in detail and voluntarily agree to participate.
(2) Accept treatment, review, and follow-up in accordance with the requirements of this study and truthfully inform about the changes in illness.

5. What is the impact of participating in the study on daily life?
(1) You may find these visits and inspections to be inconvenient. In addition, some tests may make you feel uncomfortable. Please consult your study physician if you have any questions regarding the tests and procedures.
(2) Please consult your study physician before using any new prescription or disease-related medications during the study period to avoid conflicts.
(3) For your safety and to ensure the validity of the study results, you are not allowed to participate in any other clinical study.

6. Possible benefits of participating in the study
(1) Subjects participating in this project can use the microhook for free (RMB 4500-6000).
(2) You will be prioritized for screening.
(3) You will receive comprehensive follow-up records with professional advice on glaucoma diagnosis and treatment.
(4) You will receive free postoperative gonioscopic examinations.
(5) You will obtain the privilege of the priority operation arrangement.

The application of the research results may help a vast number of patients with the same disease.

7. Is there any reward for participating in the study?

You will not be paid for your participation in this study, but you will be free to use the Tanito Microhook (RMB 4500-6000).

8. Risks of participating in the study

(1) Trabeculectomy is a conventional surgical method for the treatment of advanced PACG, which has a history of more than 20 years. Goniosynechialysis has been widely used for more than 10 years in the treatment of PACG. As a conventional surgical method for congenital and open-angle glaucoma, goniotomy has been performed in other countries for more than 10 years and has been performed in China for several years. It is characterized by a simple operation, low surgical risk, and few complications (mainly anterior chamber bleeding, which can be absorbed by itself).

(2) The investigator will purchase insurance for the clinical study in accordance with the necessary procedures described in the GCP, and compensation for injuries and damages related to the clinical study will be conducted in accordance with the applicable Chinese laws and regulations.

(3) Possible risks in examination: Risks of examination instruments: All ophthalmic examinations used in this study have been widely used in clinical practice, and the examination itself will not cause adverse effects on the subjects. The Goldmann tonometry examination requires contact with the cornea; however, this risk is minimized by careful operation and strict disinfection by skilled technicians.

9. Is personal information kept confidential?

Yes. Your medical records (private information, test results, etc.) will all be kept at the hospital where you visit. The hospital will record the results of your medical records. Only the researchers, ethics committee members, and drug regulators will be allowed access to your medical records. Your personal identity will not be disclosed in any public report of the results of this study. We will do everything within the law to protect the privacy of your personal medical
10. Is it necessary to participate in the study?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary, and participation is entirely up to you. You may refuse to participate. You can withdraw from the study at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the study, please notify your study physician in advance. If you experience any unusual symptoms at any time during the study period, please inform your study physician or staff.

The study physician may suspend your participation in the study at any time during the study in your best interest for the following reasons: 1. Continuing to participate in this study may be detrimental to you; 2. You need to use the treatment prohibited in this study; 3. You fail to follow the instructions; 4. The study was terminated before its completion.

Alternative treatment: Surgery is the preferred treatment for PACG. Those who do not participate in this study will also need to undergo one of the two surgical options described above.

11. Participation costs

Patients need to pay their own registration fees, pre-operative medication and examination fees, surgery fees, and other routine diagnosis and treatment costs. The study will pay 4500–6000 RMB for TMH in goniotomy as well as postoperative gonioscopy.

12. What to do now?

It is up to you (and your family) to decide whether to participate in the study. Before you decide to participate in the study, ask your doctor as many questions as possible. Thank you for your consideration. If you decide to participate in the study, please let your doctor know and he or she will make all arrangements for you. Please keep this document in mind: Ethics Committee of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University (Tel:020-66610729).
Informed Consent · Signature

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above introduction to this study and have had the opportunity to discuss with and ask questions about it from the doctors. All of my questions were answered satisfactorily.

I am aware of the possible risks and benefits of participating in this study. I understand that participation in the study is voluntary, and I confirm that I have had sufficient time to consider this and understand that:

- I can always ask my doctor for more information.
- I can withdraw from this study at any time without discrimination or retaliation, and my medical treatment and rights and interests will not be affected.

I am aware that if I drop out of the study, I will be required to inform the doctor of my condition and complete the corresponding physical examination and physical examination, which would benefit the study as a whole.

If I need to take any other medication owing to changes in my condition, I will consult with my doctor in advance or inform my doctor afterwards.

I consent to access to my research materials by the drug regulatory authority, the ethics committee, or the sponsor's representative.

Finally, I agree to participate in the study and promise to follow the doctors’ advice as much as possible.

Signature of subject (or guardian): __ __ __ __ yyyy/mm/dd

Contact Number:

I confirm that the details of the trial, including its rights and possible benefits and risks, have been explained to the patient.

Investigator signature: __ __ __ __ yyyy/mm/dd

Contact number: 020-66618932