



How to Prevent Wrong IOL Implanted?

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Happy New year 2024.

Of all medical fields, it is Orthopaedic followed by Ophthalmology that have most wrongly implanted device. It sounds bizarre, right? Rarely we had wrong IOL powers and almost none operated on the wrong eye. Statistical analysis however had predicted these possibilities as we have upper limbs and lower limbs and of course right and left eyes. But let us think for a while and look into how we can prevent implanting wrong IOL power or operating on the wrong eye.

- Pre-clerking: While we focus on informed consent, excellent communication and meticulous documentation, we shall be extra caution when choosing the type and power of the intraocular lens. Surgeon should select IOL when counselling the patient (to underline below IOL power/highlight in the biometry sheet. Biometry sheet should be printed with OD followed by OS and all IOL brands must be in comparison) at that moment. It is useful to include three-piece IOL and ACIOL powers. Surgeon or trainee also to write in Pre-clerking form and in Prescription slip. (Be careful of the 0.5 D and not use carbon copies if needed more than one slip).
- Once received the IOL, staff need to check IOL box to match the prescription.
- On Pre-op review/Operating day, surgeon or trainee need to check IOL box with the case file and biometry and document that IOL checked and Consent taken.
- In Operation room, before begin surgery, surgeon or trainee need check the IOL brand and power with biometry and write it on the white board with details of patients and eye to be operated. Then a time out should be conducted.
- Before implantation, trainee or staff to read the details on the IOL box -name of the IOL and the power before opening the box.

The way to prevent implanting the wrong IOL is to have different people checking and verifying the details several times. Most cases of insertion of an incorrect IOL are due to human error and failure to adhere to Standard Operating Procedure.

Hope these 5 steps would be helpful.