

SUPRACHOROIDAL GOLD MICRO-SHUNT FOR REDUCTION OF INTRAOCULAR PRESSURE

Purpose: To evaluate a novel gold shunt designed to reduce intraocular pressure in the treatment of glaucoma. The Gold Micro-Shunt (GMS) facilitates aqueous flow between the anterior chamber and the suprachoroidal space following implantation by utilizing the eye's natural pressure gradient between the AC and the SCS.

Methods: The GMS was implanted through a micro, partial-depth scleral incision. In a prospective clinical study, 76 eyes were implanted with the GMS and followed for two years. Patients were monitored for IOP, reduction in number of pressure-lowering medications and complications. The mean pre-operative IOP was 27.7 ± 5.9 mm Hg.

Results: The mean IOP at 1-year post-operative was 19.7 ± 7.9 mm Hg (50 eyes) and 19.7 ± 3.3 mm Hg at the 2-year follow-up (18 eyes).

Conclusion: The GMS provided good IOP reduction with only minor and infrequent complications. The biocompatibility of the gold appears to be well tolerated by the eye.

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