IS DAY 1 POST-OPERATIVE REVIEW NECESSARY AFTER VITRECTOMY?

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Introduction: The importance of day 1 review following vitreoretinal surgery remains the subject of debate. This study aimed to identify clinical characteristics that predict the need for unexpected intervention on the first post-operative day after pars plana vitrectomy. Methods: A single surgeon, single centre, retrospective case note review was conducted. Results: Of 500 patients who underwent vitrectomy between Dec 2010 and Jan 2013, 126 underwent day 1 review. Indications for surgery included retinal detachment, epiretinal membrane, full thickness macular hole, vitreous haemorrhage, diabetic eye disease and floaters. Phacoemulsification was performed concurrently in 20/126 (16%) eyes. Five patients (4.0%) required unexpected intervention on day 1: 3/126 required a change in medication due to IOP30 (2/126) or hypotony (1/126); 2/126 underwent unexpected return to theatre, for anterior chamber washout, due to retained nuclear fragment/foreign body. Patients undergoing combined phacoemulsification and vitrectomy surgery were significantly more likely to require intervention on day 1 than patients undergoing vitrectomy alone (15.0% vs 1.9%, p=0.028, Fishers Exact Test). Risk of raised IOP was unrelated to indication for surgery, type of tamponade, or occurrence of intraoperative complications. Conclusion: The results of this study suggest that whilst rate of intervention is low, day 1 post op review still has value, particularly in patients undergoing combined phacovitrectomy.