STARFLO™ GLAUCOMA IMPLANT: SUCCES AND FAIL

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Purpose: To present early results with first 2 patients implanted with a STARflo™ – new glaucoma silicone implant. Methods: Two patients with primary open angle glaucoma underwent, under local anesthesia, implantation of STARflo™. A limbus based conjunctival flap and superficial scleral flap were created. A second incision in sclera was performed until choroid appeared, the body of implant was inserted into suprachoroidal space, the head of implant into anterior chamber. The scleral flap was tightly sutured. Results: Male patient, aged 66 intraocular pressure (IOP) before surgery was 30 mmHg on 3 antiglaucoma medicaments, 4 months after implantation his IOP was 19 mmHg on 1 drug. No adverse events were observed during and early after surgery. During follow up, between week 5-8 we have observed transient elevation of IOP up to 41 mmHg which have resolved after eye drops and carbonic anhydrase inhibitor pills. Second patient, man - aged 50 with IOP 32 mmHg on 3 antiglaucoma eye drops and carbonic anhydrase inhibitor pills was dropped out because of high IOP early after surgery up to 31 mmHg on maximal local therapy. We performed cyclophotocoagulation 3 weeks after STARflo™ implantation achieving stabilization of IOP. In both patients we didn't observe any device-related adverse event and inflammatory response. Conclusions: A STARflo™ antiglaucoma device may be promising new suprachoroidal implant which may lead to IOP reduction, although not in all cases. Further observation is needed to assess long term results and to estimate its impact on ocular tissue.