THE EFFECTS OF LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY ON INTRAOCULAR PRESSURE IN ELDERLY PATIENTS
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PURPOSE: To assess the potential effect of laparoscopic cholecystectomy on intraocular pressure (IOP) in an elderly population.

METHODS: The study included 34 patients, aged 55 and over, who were to undergo a laparoscopic cholecystectomy for cholelithiasis. Mean arterial blood pressures (MBPs) and IOP of both eyes were measured on five occasions: before anaesthetic induction (MBP\textsubscript{1}, IOP\textsubscript{1}), after anaesthetic induction and during mechanical ventilation (MBP\textsubscript{2}, IOP\textsubscript{2}), after pneumoperitoneum (MBP\textsubscript{3}, IOP\textsubscript{3}), after evacuation of pneumoperitoneum (MBP\textsubscript{4}, IOP\textsubscript{4}), and 1 hour after tracheal extubation (MBP\textsubscript{5}, IOP\textsubscript{5}).

RESULTS: The mean age of patients was 63.24 ± 6.61. MBPs were 114.51 ± 22.05 (MBP\textsubscript{1}), 106.16 ± 19.46 (MBP\textsubscript{2}), 101.07 ± 16.32 (MBP\textsubscript{3}), 98.88 ± 11.95 (MBP\textsubscript{4}), and 110.88 ± 10.69 (MBP\textsubscript{5}). IOPs were 18.75 ± 2.49 (IOP\textsubscript{1}), 16.47 ± 3.2 (IOP\textsubscript{2}), 17.09 ± 3.52 (IOP\textsubscript{3}), 16.5 ± 3.72 (IOP\textsubscript{4}), and 18.85 ± 2.3 (IOP\textsubscript{5}). The effect of pneumoperitoneum on blood pressure and IOP was not statistically significant.

CONCLUSION: Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is a safe method for IOP changes in an elderly population without an accompanying ophthalmologic problem.