Non-penetrating glaucoma surgery using AquaFlow(TM) collagen implants

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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To summarise the available evidence on the use of AquaFlow(TM) collagen implants in non-penetrating glaucoma surgery.

Authors' conclusions
- AquaFlow(TM) is an absorbable collagen implant for use in non-penetrating surgery for primary open angle glaucoma. Its purpose is to facilitate drainage of fluid from the eye, thereby reducing intraocular pressure.

- AquaFlow(TM) is approved for use in Canada in medically refractory cases of primary open angle glaucoma.

- Non-penetrating glaucoma surgery with the AquaFlow(TM) implant appears to be a relatively safe procedure. However, there is a steep learning curve for the surgeon and it is initially associated with a high rate of conversion to conventional surgery during the operation.

- Limited evidence from small non-randomized trials suggests that the AquaFlow(TM) implant may offer benefits over conventional surgical approaches in terms of reduced complication rates, reduced medication use, an earlier return of improved vision and sustained control of intraocular pressure. However, the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of this approach have not been established.

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