



Vision loss can occur after any surgical procedure.

Patients can experience partial or total blindness in one or both eyes.

Postoperative Visual Loss

Sudden

Permanent

Preventable?

The American Society of Anesthesiologists has created a Registry to study the factors leading to postoperative vision loss.

At present, no convincing cause-and-effect relationships have been established that can explain this catastrophic event.

A recent increase in cases of postoperative vision loss reported by at least two major sources involved in risk management suggests that an in-depth international study is needed.

Study



The Postoperative Visual Loss Registry will collect 100+ cases where patients had vision loss within 7 days of non-ophthalmic surgery.

Postoperative Visual Loss

Pressure to the patient's face is usually not the cause of postoperative visual loss.

DATA COLLECTED

The Registry will collect data on factors theorized in the medical literature to be contributors to postoperative vision loss.

MEDICAL HISTORY

- Age
- Atherosclerosis
- Other medical history

SURGICAL DATA

- Positioning
- Surgical procedure
- Hemodynamics

OPHTHALMOLOGIC EXAM

Goals



Damage to the optic nerve can affect the surrounding tissue.

The severity of optic disc edema and vision loss varies among patients.

Postoperative Visual Loss



A NORMAL OPTIC DISC

Early anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (ION) will display an *abnormal* optic disc.

Early posterior ION will display a *normal* optic disc.



AN EDEMATOUS OPTIC DISC

The anterior portion of the optic nerve received less blood. Edema may last 2-3 months.

Early anterior ION will display an *edematous* optic disc.

Late posterior ION will display an *edematous* optic disc.



AN ATROPHIED OPTIC DISC

An atrophied nerve results in permanent, possibly extensive vision loss.

Late anterior ION will display an *atrophied* optic disc.

Late posterior ION will display an *atrophied* optic disc.

All photographs are courtesy of the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

Examine



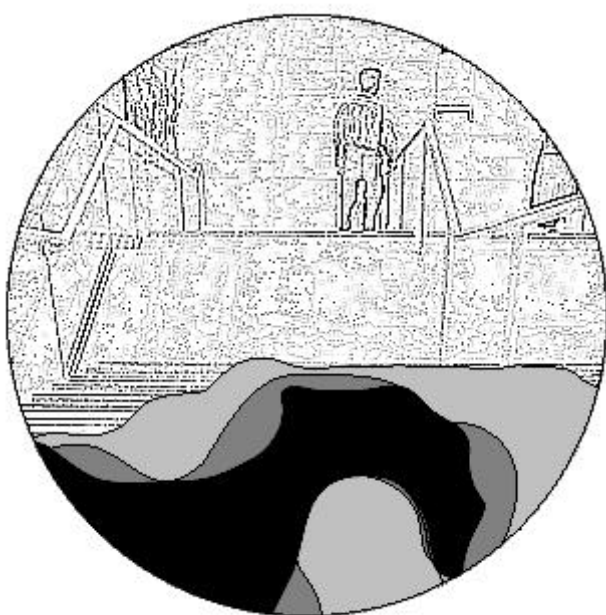
Anterior ION generally involves atrophy of the optic nerve fibers in the upper portion of the retina. Patients experience vision loss in the lower visual field.

Postoperative Visual Loss



PATIENTS LOSE MOBILITY

Patients experiencing postoperative vision loss may have difficulty with activities involving looking down. Everyday tasks such as walking, climbing stairs, and cooking may be dangerous or impossible.



VISUAL FIELD DEFICIT VARIES

Postoperative vision loss may be total, or partial, and may affect one eye or both.

Vision

Join the Registry



The ASA Postoperative Visual Loss Registry is now accepting cases.

If you have a case of visual loss following non-ophthalmic surgery, report it to us.

Postoperative Visual Loss

SEND IN CASES ANONYMOUSLY

Cases you send in will have a unique ID. These ID's cannot be used to identify the source of the case report or persons or institutions involved in the case.

GETTING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Each case must be submitted using a standardized questionnaire. These include items that have been cited in medical literature as possible mechanisms for postoperative blindness.

Get the questionnaire at:

www.asaclosedclaims.org

Or contact Karen Posner at the address listed to the left.

Postoperative Visual Loss Registry

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