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Titel des Beitrags: Macula-off retinal detachment--a matter of time?

Abstract:
BACKGROUND: The aim of this study was to determine the influence of the lag time between macular detachment and surgical intervention on post-operative visual acuity gain in patients with rhegmatogenous macula-off retinal detachment.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: We retrospectively evaluated the medical records of 62 consecutive patients having undergone scleral buckling surgery for rhegmatogenous macula-off retinal detachment. The correlation of gender, age, refraction, number of retinal breaks, development of cataract during follow-up, pre-operative visual acuity and timing of surgical intervention with final visual acuity and post-operative visual acuity gain were determined. Mean follow-up time was 12.7 months. RESULTS: A correlation with final visual acuity was found for pre-operative visual acuity and lag between the beginning of symptoms and surgical intervention. A correlation with visual acuity gain was found only for timing of surgical procedure. When divided into subgroups operated after 0, 1-3, 4-6, or 7-9 days, respectively, visual recovery was better the earlier the patients underwent surgical repair. Compared to surgery at day 0, statistical significance was found only for patients operated 4 or more days after the occurrence of symptoms.

CONCLUSION: The first three days seem to represent a relatively safe period during which surgery for
macula-off retinal detachment may be postponed without compromising the patient's visual prognosis.