Author’s response to reviews

Title: Congenital Aniridia with Cataract: Case series

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1: This is an interesting study that showed the results of the combination surgery of phacoemulsification, posterior chamber foldable lens implantation and capsular tension ring placement in the patients with congenital aniridia and coexistent cataract.

Although the manuscript seems to be incomplete and does not seem to be a final version, I believe the manuscript can be considered for publication after the correction of mistakes.

Our response: Thanks very much for your comments!
Reviewer 2: Dear author

The manuscript entitled "Congenital aniridia with cataract: Case series" is a case series describing the surgical and visual outcomes of cataract surgery in cases with congenital aniridia using phacoemulsification, posterior chamber foldable lens implantation, and capsular tension ring (CTR) placement.

The manuscript is generally well written. The author describes useful information about surgical techniques of cataract surgery and usefulness of colored contact lenses after cataract surgery, in the congenital aniridia. However, several significant revisions have to be needed.

Please see below my general suggestions.

* Major issues:

1. In this paper, patients with keratopathy, glaucoma and lens dislocation were excluded. But, aniridia-associated keratopathy (AAK) is a most common manifestation and 80% of congenital aniridia had clinically identifiable AAK, and the severity of the keratopathy increased with increasing age. I wonder if all enrolled patients did not have AAK in this study.

   Our response: There are mild opcity in surrounding cornea in three eyes of our cases. We think these opcity don't effect the patients' visual acuity. So, in fact, only serious keratopathy that effect visual acuity were excluded. We have change it in manuscript.

2. I would recommend adding a table of demographic and clinical characteristics, such as, gender, age, family history, f/u period, lens opacity type, degree of zonular weakness, endothelial cell count, central corneal thickness, astigmatism, other ocular anomaly( Nystagmus, foveal hypoplasia, glaucoma, corneal opacity) or systemic diseases.

   Our response: we have done this and thanks for your suggestions.

3. I wonder if screening for the PAX6 mutation has been performed in all patients in this study.

   Our response: Based on the principle of voluntary, we got 5 ml blood of each members in six families of these congenital aniridia patients. DNA sequencing method is used to inspect PAX6 mutation, using MLPA methods to detect gene big pieces missing. The results is that PAX6 gene sequences change were found in three families, genes big pieces missing were found in two
families, no PAX6 mutation was found in one family. We think this manuscript was a clinical article and so these results were not included.

4. Unlike other reports, what do you think about the reason for improvement in visual acuity after cataract surgery in this case series? And, add a change in symptom of glare before and after surgery.

Our response: We think that most of aniridia patients' visual acuity are low before cataract. Cataract made the visual acuity worse. So the visual acuity improved a little after cataract surgery. The lens opacity were uneven and made the patients feel more glare, so patients feelled better after cataract surgery.

5. Please describe in detail the manufacturer or model name for colored contact lenses.

Our response: The manufacturer for colored contact lenses: Johnson and Johnson, USA.

6. Please describe in detail the type of CTL and the method of operation.

Our response: CTL or CTR? If CTR, the CTR we use was Injectable capsule tension ring made by CROMA, Austria. It can be injected into the capsule before IOL implanting.

7. Please reconsider the necessity of all the figures included in this manuscript.

Our response: Thanks for your suggestion! Figure 2 and figure 3 are same eye but not at same time. We think in figure 3, the artificial pupil formed more obviously.

* Minor issues:

1. In Line 40 of page 5, "showedan" should change to "showed an"

Our response: we have changed it and thanks for your suggestion.