

Outcome of surgery in patients with giant retinal tear: 10 years experience

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Abstract

Purpose To present our experience with the surgery in retinal detachment (RD) associated with giant retinal tear (GRT) over 10 years in a tertiary referral hospital.

Patients and Methods In this retrospective study, the charts of all patients with the diagnosis of RD associated with GRT who underwent surgery from 2005 to 2015 at Rassoul Akram Hospital were reviewed. Exclusion criteria were concomitant presence of diabetic retinopathy, and uveitis. All patients had to have at least 3 months of follow up. The success rate and factors associated with repeated surgery were determined.

Results Sixty two eyes of 61 patients including 51 males and 10 females were assessed. Proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR) was present in 14 (22.6%) of eyes. Pars plana vitrectomy (PPV) alone was performed in 44 eye (71.0%) and simultaneous vitrectomy and phacoemulsification surgery was performed in 18 eyes (29.0%). An encircling episcleral band was placed in 7 eyes (11.3%). Anatomic success after one vitrectomy procedure was achieved in 45 eyes (72.58%) and ultimately in 61 eyes (98.4%) at last follow up. Seventeen eyes needed repeated PPV due to redetachment associated with PVR in the follow up period. The rate of repeated PPV was significantly higher in eyes with PVR at baseline and surgery with encircling episcleral band. Trauma, extension of tear, age, and lens status had no significant effect on the rate of repeated PPV.

Conclusions Our study shows that the high surgical success can be achieved in patients with RD associated with GRT with single or multiple surgeries.

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Introduction

Giant retinal tear (GRT) is defined as a full-thickness circumferential break in the neurosensory retina, extending more than 3 clock hours (90°).^{1,2} The majority of GRTs have been described to be idiopathic; however, GRT has been reported after trauma, extensive cryotherapy, photocoagulation and refractive surgery.^{3,4}

Historically, several surgical procedures including intentional retinal incarceration, prone air-fluid exchange and retinal tacks or sutures have been employed for the treatment of rhegmatogenous retinal detachment (RRD) associated with GRT. However, the outcomes were generally poor.⁵ Pars plana vitrectomy (PPV) is the standard treatment for RRD associated with GRT.⁶ Few case series have reported outcomes of surgery for RRD associated with GRT.^{1–5} These reports are generally small and the surgical techniques are different. Final success after single or multiple surgeries has been reported to be between 48 to 100%.^{2–7} Several factors including prior vitrectomy, GRT size greater than 180 and the presence of preoperative proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR) have reported to be associated with poor surgical success.^{7,8} Also, several innovations in the surgical instrumentations and techniques have improved the success rate of the surgery for GRTs. These include, but not limited to wide-angle viewing systems, small gauge vitrectomy instruments, and introduction of perfluorocarbon liquids (PFCL).⁵

The aim of this study was to present our experience with the surgery in RRD associated with GRT over 10 years in a tertiary referral hospital.

Methods

In this retrospective non-comparative case series, the charts of all patients with the diagnosis of

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RRD associated with GRT who underwent surgery from 2005 to 2015 at Rassoul Akram Hospital were reviewed. Ethics committee of the Iran University of Medical Sciences approved the study. Exclusion criteria were concomitant presence of any other ocular pathology which could decrease visual acuity such as diabetic retinopathy, advanced glaucoma and previous uveitis at presentation. Data extracted were age, sex, duration of symptoms, extent of tear, types of surgery, lens status, PVR, status of the macula, involvement of fellow eye, number of additional surgery, anatomic outcome of first and final surgery and pre and postoperative visits' best corrected visual acuity (BCVA). Grading of PVR was performed based on the current accepted classification of PVR.⁹ Visual acuities were measured with Snellen chart and the measurements were converted to LogMAR for analysis. Refractive error was determined in eyes with attached macula. In others, the present glass reading or previous refraction was entered as refractive error. All patients had to have at least 3 months of follow up.

For all eyes, a standard 3 port pars plana vitrectomy was performed. The vitrectomy was performed with 20 gauge and 23 gauge instruments. The vitrectomy machine was Accurus (Alcon, Alcon Laboratories, TX) or Stellaris PC (Bausch and Lomb Incorporated, Bridgewater, NJ, USA). Combined phacoemulsification and PPV was done at surgeon discretion. After a core vitrectomy, posterior vitreous detachment was induced if needed and vitreous base shaving was performed. The retina was flattened using PFCL. The decision for placing a circumferential episcleral bands was made on discretion of the surgeon. Silicone oil (1000, 5000, or heavy silicone oil, Bausch and Lomb, Toulouse, France) was injected for retinal tamponade. Subconjunctival antibiotics and steroids were injected at the conclusion of the surgery.

Data analysis was performed using SPSS software (version 15, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Student's *t*-test, paired *t*-test, Wilcoxon Test, χ^2 -test, Fisher's exact Test, Friedman Test and Multivariate regression analysis were used for analysis. *P*-value <0.05 was considered significant. The 10-year period of the study, was divided into the two 5-year periods. The surgical success rates were compared between the two periods of time.

Results

Ninety five patients with the diagnosis of RRD associated with GRT during 10 years were reviewed. Thirty three patients were excluded due to inadequate follow up. Finally, 62 eyes of 61 patients with GRT were studied. Ten patients (16.4%) were female and 51 patients (83.6%) were male. Demographics and baseline characteristics are summarized in Table 1. No eye had a diagnosis of

Table 1 Demographics and baseline characteristics

Baseline characteristics	Number of patients: 61 Number of eyes: 62
Mean age \pm SD, (range) years	33.96 \pm 20.19 (4-76)
<i>Sex, n (%)</i>	
Male	51 (83.6)
Female	10 (16.4)
Mean follow-up \pm SD,(range) months	21.54 \pm 27.73(3-126)
Mean Refraction \pm SD,(range)	-4.78 \pm 8.98 (-24-16)
<i>Years of surgery</i>	
First 5 years period	22 (35.5)
Second 5 years period	40 (64.5)
<i>Lens status, n (%)</i>	
Phakic/no cataract	33 (53.2)
Phakic/cataract	9 (14.5)
Pseudophakic	14 (22.6)
Aphakic	6 (9.7)
<i>Eye, n (%)</i>	
OD	30 (48.4)
OS	32 (51.6)
History of trauma <i>n (%)</i>	18 (29.03)
Proliferative vitreoretinopathy, <i>n (%)</i>	14 (22.6)
Preoperative number of eyes with anterior PVR	10 (16.1)
Preoperative number of eyes with posterior PVR	11 (18.0)
Preoperative extent of anterior PVR (clock hour)	5.42 \pm 1.98
Preoperative extent of posterior PVR (clock hour)	7.00 \pm 4.76
<i>Macula detachment, n (%)</i>	
Extent of GRT	51 (82.3)
< 180	42 (67.8)
> 180	20 (32.2)

hereditary vitreoretinopathy. Thirteen eyes (21%) were high myopic.

Fifty one eyes (82.3%) had a detached macula. The GRT was 180° or greater in 20 (32.2%) eyes and less than 180° in 42 (67.8%) eyes. Proliferative vitreoretinopathy was present in 14 (22.6%) eyes. PVR was grade C in all 14 eyes. PVR was anterior in 10 eyes and posterior in 11 eyes. The extensions was from 4 to 12 o'clock in anterior and from 2 to 12 o'clock in posterior PVR.

PPV alone was performed in 44 eye (71.0%) and simultaneous PPV and phacoemulsification surgery was performed in 18 eyes (29.0%). Phacoemulsification was performed for significant cataract in 10 eyes, and subluxation of the lens in one eye. Seven patients had clear lens; these patients underwent combined surgery to provide better visualization of peripheral retina. An encircling scleral band (No. 240, FCI Inc., Paris, France) was placed in 7 eyes (11.3%). The reason for placing the episcleral band was the age (\leq 18 years) in 4 eyes. In 3

eyes, the encircling band was placed for prevention of RD in case of future PVR. All eyes received silicone oil tamponade and had 360 degree laser photocoagulation of the peripheral retina, intraoperatively. Heavy silicone oil (Oxane HD; Bausch and Lomb, Toulouse, France), was injected in 10 (16.1%) eyes.

Patients were followed for a mean of 21.54 ± 27.73 (3–126) months. All eyes had 3 months of follow up. Six, 12 and 24 month follow up was available for 52, 32 and 18 eyes. Anatomic success after one PPV procedure was achieved in 45 eyes (72.58%). Final anatomical surgical success was achieved in 61 eyes (98.4%) at last follow up. The single case of anatomical failure had localized inferior retinal detachment 4 months after primary surgery and refused additional surgery. Seventeen eyes needed repeated PPV due to recurrent RRD associated with PVR. For 8 eyes, the primary surgery date was in the first 5-year

and for 9 eyes was in the second 5-year study period ($P=0.24$). Fourteen eyes needed one, two eyes needed 2 and one eye needed 3 additional PPV surgeries. At the end of follow up, silicone oil had been removed from 41 eyes (66.1%).

Mean preoperative BCVA was 2.47 ± 0.79 LogMAR at baseline, and 1.64 ± 0.85 and 1.46 ± 0.75 LogMAR at 1 and 3 months after surgery, respectively (both $P < 0.001$, Figure 1). At the last visit, mean BCVA was 1.43 ± 0.92 LogMAR ($P < 0.001$). BCVA improved one line or more in 70% and 3 lines or more in 68% of the patients, respectively.

The rate of repeated PPV was significantly correlated with baseline PVR and placement of encircling episcleral band (OR = 3.8, $P = 0.03$ and OR = 24.00, $P = 0.005$, respectively). Trauma, high myopia, time period of surgery, extension of tear, age, and lens status had no significant effect on the rate of repeated PPV (Table 2).

In multivariate logistic regression analysis both PVR and encircling band remained significantly associate with repeated PPV (OR = 5.39 $P = 0.01$ and OR = 38.58, $P = 0.002$ respectively).

Discussion

In this study, we found a high anatomical reattachment rate of 72.5% after first surgery with a final success rate of 98.4%. The age range and the sex in our study population was similar to those reported in previous studies.^{7–11} A history of blunt trauma was found in 29% of eyes. Previous studies have also reported a similar rate of trauma (10–40%).^{3,4} Similarly, the rate of high myopia in this study (21%) was within the range of previous reports (12–47%).^{7–11} In those studies that the presence of PVR was not among the exclusion criteria, the rate of PVR was

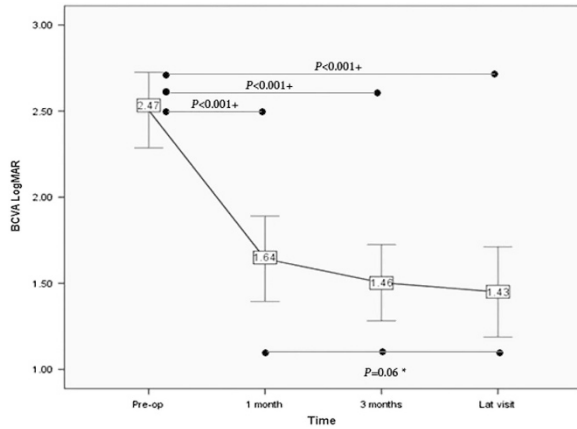


Figure 1 Preoperative and postoperative best corrected visual acuity. * Friedman Test, +Wilcoxon Test.

Table 2 Patients characteristics in single surgery versus repeated PPV group

	Single surgery	Repeated PPV	P value
Number	45	17	
Age	35.6 ± 20.02	29.41 ± 20.54	0.27 ^a
Sex (M/F)	36/9	16/1	0.17 ^b
Age group (under 20/more than 20)	14/31	9/8	0.16 ^c
Eye (OD/OS)	20/25	10/7	0.31 ^c
PVR at presentation	7	7	0.03 ^b
Lens status (Phakic/Pseudophakic/Aphakic)	31/11/3	11/3/3	0.59 ^c
Tear extension (<180/>180)	32/13	10/7	0.23 ^c
Trauma	11	7	0.19 ^c
Time period of surgery (first 5 years period/second five period)	14/31	8/9	0.24 ^c
High myopia	8	5	0.50 ^b
SO removal	32	9	0.17 ^c
Phacovitx/Vitx alone	12/33	6/11	0.50 ^c
Surgery type (without band/with band)	44/1	11/6	0.00 ^b

^aT-test. ^bFisher's exact test. ^c χ^2 .

Table 3 Studies on Treatment of Giant Retinal Tears (GRTs) from 2006 to 2016

Author	Country	Study design	Inclusion criteria	Surgical technique	Number of eyes	Anatomic results	Visual outcome	Conclusion
GOEZZINNE <i>et al</i> ⁷	Netherlands	Retrospective	GRT ± PVR A or B	PPV ± encircling buckle	30	SOS ^a : 70% Final success: 96.4%	VA improved in 54%	Absence of an encircling sclera buckle was significantly associated with redetachment
Al-Khairi <i>et al</i> ⁸	Saudi Arabia	Retrospective	GRT without PVR	PPV ± encircling buckle	117	SOS: 78.6% Final success: 94%	VA improved in 17.9%	Encircling scleral buckling and silicone oil tamponade decrease the risk of recurrent retinal detachments
Lee <i>et al</i> ¹⁰	Singapore	Retrospective	GRT	PPV ± encircling buckle	99	SOS: 71.7% Final success: 84.8%	VA improved in 41.4%	Surgical success for GRT can be achieved with good visual outcome in 84.8% after a mean of 1.19 surgeries
Ang <i>et al</i> ¹⁶	United Kingdom	Prospective	GRT ± PVR	PPV ± encircling buckle	62	With PVR: SOS: 72.2% Final success: 94.4%	VA improved in 36.8%	Minority of eyes were presented with PVR-C and high retinal reattachment rates were achieved; Fewer than half had vision sufficient for driving in the GRT eye
Gonzalez <i>et al</i> ⁹	USA, Miami, Florida	Retrospective	GRT	PPV ± encircling buckle	79	Without PVR: SOS: 82.1% Final success: 94.9% Final success: 82% Final success: 92%	VA improved in 57%	PPV alone with gas tamponade responsible for highest rate of recurrent retinal detachment after initial repair
Jain <i>et al</i> ¹⁷	USA Michigan,	Retrospective	GRT ± PVR C	PPV without encircling buckle	41	Final success: 75%	VA improved in 59%	Adjuvant scleral buckling does not appear to be necessary in the management of primary GRT detachment
Dabour ¹¹	Egypt	Retrospective	GRT > 180	PPV ± encircling buckle	24	Final success: 83.3%	VA improved in 91.7%	Concurrent encircling buckle the primary intervention may contribute to high chance of success
Pitcher <i>et al</i> ¹⁸	USA, Pennsylvania	Retrospective	GRT	PPV ± encircling buckle	54	SOS: 88% Final success: 100%	VA improved in 35%	Use of scleral buckling silicone oil or 360° endophoto-tocoagulation did not correlate with higher rates of successful repair
Current study	Iran, Tehran	Retrospective	GRT ± PVR C	PPV ± encircling buckle	62	SOS: 75.6% Final success: 98.4%	VA improved in 70%	The high surgical success can be achieved in almost all patients with single or multiple surgeries with or without encircling band

^aSOS, single operation success.

between 9% to 41%.^{2,10} The rate of baseline PVR was 22.6% in our series.

Recent advances in the surgical techniques and instruments improved the success of the surgery for RRD associated with GRT.¹² Primary and final retinal reattachment rates after repeated PPV vary widely among published studies, which may be partly related to the wide variability in preoperative characteristics of the GRT associated RRD as well as the surgical techniques. The single operation success ranged from 70 to 88%. We achieved a single operation success rate of 72.58% and final anatomic success rate of 98.4% at last follow up. Table 3 summarizes the recent large studies reported the results of PPV for the treatment of RRD associated with GRT. During the recent 10 years, 3 studies reported a higher number of eyes compared to our study. The largest recent series is a retrospective study of 117 eyes with GRT without PVR, reported a primary procedure's success rate of 78.6% which increased to 94% with multiple surgeries.⁷ They used an encircling scleral buckle in 97 (82.9%), silicone oil tamponade in 64 (54.7%) and perfluoropropane gas in 53 (45.3%) eyes. Finally the study concluded higher success rate in primary surgery was achieved with placement of encircling band and use of silicone oil tamponade. Lee and colleagues¹⁰ reported 99 eyes of 96 patients with a single operation success of 71.8 that increased to 84.8% finally with a mean of 1.19 surgeries. In their study, the prevalence of high myopia (40.6%) was higher and in 90 eyes (70.3%), encircling scleral buckling was placed. In another study by Gonzalez and associates,¹² 79 eyes of 77 patients were reported. Primary success was 82% with a single surgery and 92% at final visit. They reported that history of trauma, PVR and gas tamponade were associated with higher rates of recurrent retinal detachments. We could not find any association between baseline demographics and the rate of retinal redetachment except for PVR. Similarly, Scott³ and Glaser¹³ found that the baseline PVR is a risk factor for future redetachment.

A wide variation in final visual outcomes has been reported in previous studies. The final BCVA has been reported to be 20/40 or better in 0–50% and 20/200 or lower in 10–58% of patients in different studies.^{4,14–17} In our study, the baseline BCVA was greater than 20/40 in 1.6% and lower than 20/200 in the majority of eye (90%), that is markedly lower than other studies, however, at final visit the BCVA significantly improved and 16% of eyes had BCVA greater than 20/40.

Use of a supplemental encircling band in managing GRTs remains controversial. Some studies reported higher anatomical success and low redetachment rates in PPV surgeries combined with encircling buckle^{6,10} while others showed high success rate with vitrectomy alone.¹⁸ In the current study, placement of encircling band was

significantly associated with repeated PPV (OR = 38.58 in multivariate logistic regression model). Considering the retrospective nature of this study this maybe due to the fact that surgeon had placed encircling band in eyes in which they predicated worse prognosis such as beginning of PVR or stiffness of retina. Alternatively, some have reported that scleral buckle placement in the eyes with GRT may intervene with retinal reattachment.^{19,20} Also, we placed a 2.5 mm wide episcleral band (No. 240) to support the vitreous base. Placing a wider scleral buckle may result in different outcomes. Removal of the lens is often performed to enable better visualization of the peripheral retina. In our study lens was removed in 29% eyes, whereas this rate was 41% to 51.2 in other studies.^{12,15} This difference may be due to lower percentage of eyes with PVR in our study.

Present study is limited by its retrospective nature, lack of control group and the small sample size. Also, nearly one third of the patients were excluded due to the inadequate follow up. This may cause a bias into the study results. Silicone oil was removed from 41 eyes during follow up. Although we defined the success rate according to the absence of RD associated with PVR, the retina could be detached due to missed retinal breaks after silicone removal. Despite these limitations this is one of the largest series reported from the Middle East. Our study shows that the high surgical success can be achieved in almost all patients with single or multiple surgeries. Patients should be aware the repeated surgeries may be need to save the eye. Future studies are needed to assess the role of episcleral encircling band on the surgical outcomes.

Summary

What was known before

- Management of GRTs is complicated. a. Final success after single or multiple surgeries has been reported to be between 48 to 100%.
- Using encircling band is controversial. a. Some studies reported higher anatomical success and low redetachment rates in PPV surgeries combined with encircling buckle⁶, 13 while others showed high success rate with vitrectomy alone.

What this study adds

- Current study is one of the largest series reported from the Middle East.
- In the present study single operation success rate was 72.58% and final anatomic success rate was 98.4% at last follow up.
- Current study shows that the high surgical success can be achieved in almost all patients with single or multiple surgeries.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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