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EXTRACAPSULAR CATARACT SURGERY BY RESIDENTS OF THE HOSPITAL DE CLÍNICAS DE PORTO ALEGRE: PREOPERATORY AND TRANSOPERATORY FINDINGS

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Objective: To describe the findings of all surgeries of cataract extracapsular extraction performed by residents of the Serviço de Oftalmologia do Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre - Brazil. **Methods:** retrospective analysis of the data of all the surgical procedures between February of 2004 to January of 2005. **Results:** 79 patients had been submitted to the surgery (81 eyes), with average age of 68,41 years, majority of the feminine gender (53,16%). All patients preoperatively presented best corrected visual acuity less than 0,4 and the majority perceived only hands motion (46,91%). The systemic illnesses had also been evaluated. 28,39% of the patients did not have any type of comorbidity. Diabetes was the most frequent pathology (24,69%). Sixty five per cent of the patients did not present any ocular alteration and the diabetic retinopathy corresponded to 9,87%. The frequency of the types of cataract was respectively: 42 (51,33%) white, 29 (35,80%) nuclear and 10 (12,34 %) mixed. In relation to the surgical technique, can opener capsulotomy was performed in 61,72% of the cases. The limbar incision was the most frequent corresponding to 96.29%. The intraocular lens was implanted in the sulcus in 65,43%, followed of 27,16% in the bag and only 7.4% in the anterior chamber. The more frequent intraoperative complication was iris prolapse (35,8%), followed by rupture of the posterior capsule (11,11%). **Conclusions:** Extracapsular cataract extraction made by residents in training is an integral component of the educational experience. The analysis and interpretation of these findings assist to the development of the surgical technique in the medical residence. **Key words:** cataract surgery, surgical training, residency programs, cataract complications, extracapsular extraction.