

Do we need heavy silicone oil for PVR with inferior retinal breaks or retinotomy?

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Advantages:

Conventional (standard) silicone oil has been used for PVR since a very long time. Recurrent retinal detachment often involves the inferior retina. Many heavier – than – water tamponading agents were tried as a means to prevent or to treat this situation. Heavy silicone oil was recently widely advocated as the recommended choice for inferior breaks and /or inferior recurrent PVR. Heavy oils have their own drawbacks, however. This presentation argues against the trend, which suggests that heavy silicone oil provides significant advantages over conventional silicone oil for inferior breaks and retinotomies. Theoretical and practical points support this “against” argument.

Methods:

Conventional (standard) silicone is used for a large number of eyes with inferior breaks or retinotomies. Anatomical reattachment results are comparable to heavy silicone oils but with less complication rate. We do not, therefore, see a good reason to use heavy silicone oil in place of conventional silicone oil in eyes with inferior breaks or retinotomy.

Effectiveness / Safety:

Conventional silicone oil has proved safe and effective with long-term follow up period. Complications are largely avoidable and certainly less than those of heavy silicone oils.

Take home message:

With the present state of available tamponades, the need for heavy silicone oil remains questionable.