

Is any intraocular gas bubble safe for airplane travel?

Authors: Mark Hammer, Jeffrey Rinkoff, Tampa, FL, USA

Advantages:

Small residual gas bubbles after vitro-retinal procedures requiring intraocular gas injection or exchange could delay travel home for several days or longer, if complete reabsorption is regarded as the only safe course.

Methods:

Computer simulation using clinically derived elastic constants and filtration rates is used to determine the maximum safe volume for various airplane altitudes and / or cabin pressurizations.

Effectiveness / Safety:

The aim is determine the margin of safety for small non-expansive gas bubble during air travel.

Take home message:

You can't really be sure about small supposedly non-expansive gas bubbles.