Demographic evolution of acute primary angle closure between 2001-2003 and 2008-2010: Impact of the modern cataract surgery
Gaëlle Boulanger1, Isabelle Orignac1, Michel Weber1
1Department of Ophtalmology, University Hospital Center, Nantes - France

Purpose: To study the demographic evolution of acute primary angle closure.

Methods: Retrospective study of patients with acute primary angle closure treated between 2001-2003 and 2008-2010. Comparison for each period of demographic (number of cases, age of appearance, sex), clinical (biometric values, presence or absence of iris plateau or cataract) and therapeutic data.

Results: 52 cases of acute primary angle closure were treated in the University Hospital of Nantes, France: 34 eyes in 2001-2003 and 18 in 2008-2010, which means a decrease of 47% of acute primary angle closure cases in 7 years. The incidence of acute primary angle closure significantly decreased from 0.0596% in 2001-2003 to 0.0224% in 2008-2010. Secondary cases of acute primary angle closure due to cataract decreased: 82% in 2001-2003 versus 50% in 2008-2010. In case of cataract with ocular hypertension persisting after peripheral iridotomy a cataract extraction was performed. Early phakoemulsification < 10 days was significantly more frequent in 2008-2010 than in 2001-2003 (40% versus 10%).

Conclusion: This study confirms the recent decrease of acute primary angle closure cases. The constant increase of cataract surgery in elderly people has probably played a preventive role because the highest decrease of acute primary angle closure cases is observed among the 70-80-year-old people. Henceforth acute primary angle closure cases are less due to cataract but to acute primary angle closure or iris plateau. The prevention of acute primary angle closure by watching occludable angles among people at risk is determinant.