

COMPARING THE LONG-TERM COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INTRAOCULAR LENS SELECTION AND ND:YAG LASER CAPSULOTOMY POST-CATARACT SURGERY: A COST-CONSEQUENCE ANALYSIS FROM A DUTCH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PERSPECTIVE

Okke-Jaap Bosgra¹, Rafael Busutil², Lennert de Ruiter¹, Caridad Perez Vives³, Derek O’Boyle⁴

Affiliations: 1. Alcon Nederland BV, Gorinchem 2. Alcon Healthcare, S.A, Barcelona; 3. Alcon Management SA, Cointrin, Switzerland; 4. Alcon Laboratories Ireland Ltd., Cork, Ireland

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

- Cataract surgery is the most frequently performed surgical procedure in the Netherlands¹ with crude rate of 9.36 per 1000 population performed in 2015²
- Posterior Capsular Opacification (PCO) is the most frequent complication of cataract surgery², the first year incidence rates have been reported to vary from 11% to 43% and from 23% to 38% within 2–4 years post-cataract surgery⁵⁻⁷
- PCO affecting patient's visual acuity is treated by neodymium-doped yttrium aluminum garnet laser (Nd:YAG) capsulotomy which is generally considered safe, but is associated with complications such as retinal detachment (RD), glaucoma, cystoid macular edema (CME), intraocular lens (IOL) pitting, iritis, and uveitis⁸⁻¹³
- The aim of this analysis was to estimate the cost impact of Nd:YAG procedures due to AcrySof vs. other single-piece acrylic IOLs, reflecting the Dutch setting.

METHODS

- A cost consequence model was developed in Microsoft Excel to estimate the healthcare resource utilization and cost impact of Nd:YAG capsulotomy due to different single-piece acrylic IOLs – AcrySof, AMO Tecnis, B&L Akreos, Lenstec Softec and Rayner C-/Super-flex, on the Dutch national healthcare system
- The model was developed using the cost-consequence analytical approach outlined in the medical technologies evaluation programme methods guidance from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, UK¹⁴

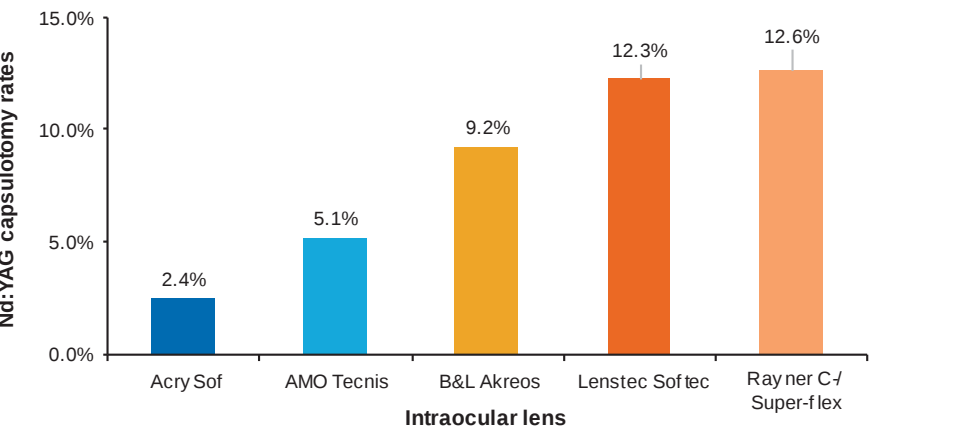
Patient population

- Current economic evaluation assessed the patients post-cataract surgery
- The data for estimated annual number of cataract surgeries for the Netherlands was derived using 2015 cataract surgery numbers¹

Model inputs

- Three-year incidence rates of Nd:YAG capsulotomy post-cataract surgery with single piece AcrySof IOLs and non-AcrySof IOLs were derived from the post-hoc analysis of the data available from a real world evidence study¹⁵ (Figure 1)

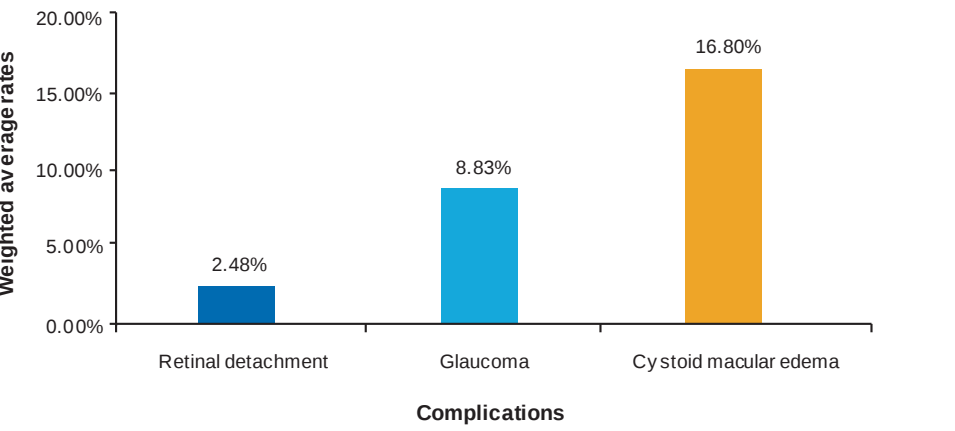
Figure 1. Cumulative Nd:YAG capsulotomy incidence for single-piece acrylic IOLs at 3 years post cataract surgery



IOL = intraocular lens, Nd:YAG = neodymium-doped yttrium aluminum garnet laser
Source: Three-year incidence of Nd:YAG capsulotomy post-cataract surgery with AcrySof IOLs and non-AcrySof IOLs were derived from a real world evidence study¹⁴

- Three-year post-Nd:YAG capsulotomy incidence of RD, glaucoma, and CME, were estimated using weighted average of published rates from studies retrieved through a systematic literature search¹⁶ (Figure 2)

Figure 2. Estimated rates of complications at 3 years post Nd:YAG capsulotomy



Nd:YAG = neodymium-doped yttrium aluminum garnet laser
Source: Three-year post-Nd:YAG capsulotomy incidence of retinal Detachment, glaucoma, and cystoid macular edema were estimated using weighted average of published rates from studies retrieved through a systematic literature search¹⁶

- Considering payers' perspective, direct treatment costs were considered including Nd:YAG capsulotomy costs and costs of treating complications due to Nd:YAG capsulotomy, i.e. RD, glaucoma, and CME
- National average of published Nd:YAG capsulotomy and vitrectomy Healthcare Resource Groups (HRG) tariffs were used, while average medical treatment costs for glaucoma and CME were sourced from literature (Table 1)
- For analysis, a 3-year time horizon was considered, the time period post-cataract surgery over which Nd:YAG capsulotomy rates and its complications were assessed

Table 1. Model inputs

Parameters	Year	Estimate
Number of cataract procedures ¹	2015	158,415
Costs		
Nd:YAG capsulotomy ¹⁷	2018–19	€235
Retinal detachment ¹⁷	2018–19	€2276
Glaucoma ¹⁷	2018–19	€310
Cystoid macular edema ¹⁷	2018–19	€150
Associated follow-up visit ¹⁷	2018–19	€80

Assumptions

- IOL acquisition costs were considered equivalent as IOLs are reimbursed under fixed cataract HRGs. This is aligned with the approach used in earlier published studies^{21,22}

Model outputs

- In terms of health system benefits, following model outputs were analysed - reduction in incidence of Nd:YAG capsulotomy and its subsequent complications with the use of AcrySof over comparator IOLs for the Netherlands
- Total cost savings were assessed with respect to reduction in Nd:YAG capsulotomy and its complications between single-piece acrylic monofocal AcrySof and comparator IOLs
- Since weighted average of published rates were used to estimate probabilities of complications, 95% confidence intervals available for the estimated probabilities of Nd:YAG capsulotomy procedure rates were used to calculate the lower and upper values of different complications

Sensitivity analysis

- The lower and upper values for Nd:YAG capsulotomy rates were derived from the available confidence intervals values and for complications (RD, glaucoma, and CME), the lower and upper values were derived using the Nd:YAG capsulotomy rates
- Furthermore, the ±10% variation in costs were applied to the lower and upper values for all the events to derive the minimum and maximum cost difference between comparators in order to test the robustness of results

RESULTS

Health system benefits

- In hypothetical scenarios considered in the model, if the Dutch national cohort of cataract surgery eligible patients in a given year were to be implanted with any of the five single-piece acrylic IOLs, in 3 years post cataract surgery, the AcrySof IOL would have the lowest incidence of Nd:YAG laser capsulotomy and its complications, and the highest would be with Rayner C-/Super-flex (Table 2)

Table 2. Reduction in the number of events of Nd:YAG capsulotomy and its complications with the use of AcrySof over the comparator IOLs in the Netherlands

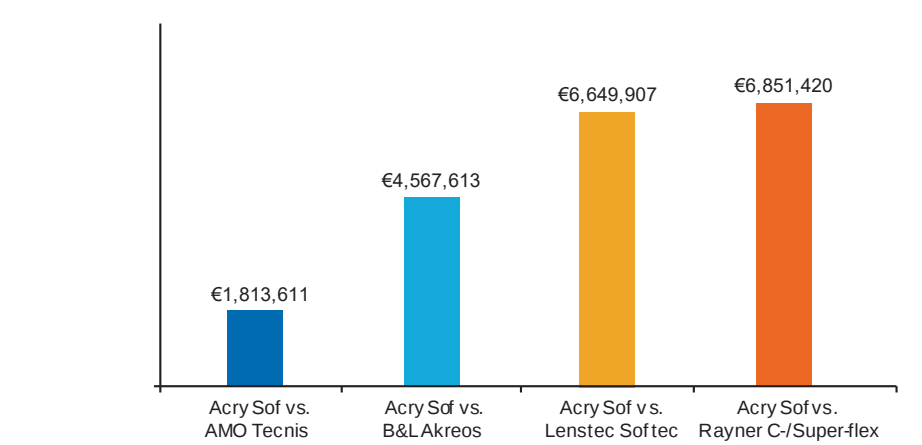
Comparisons	Baseline	Lower Value	Upper Value
Reduction in the number of Nd:YAG capsulotomy			
AcrySof vs. AMO Tecnis	–4,277	–3,485	–5,386
AcrySof vs. B&L Akreos	–10,772	–9,505	–12,198
AcrySof vs. Lenstec Softec	–15,683	–14,099	–17,426
AcrySof vs. Rayner C-/Super-flex	–16,158	–14,257	–18,218
Reduction in the number of RD events			
AcrySof vs. AMO Tecnis	–106	–89	–134
AcrySof vs. B&L Akreos	–267	–236	–303
AcrySof vs. Lenstec Softec	–389	–350	–432
AcrySof vs. Rayner C-/Super-flex	–401	–354	–452
Reduction in the number of glaucoma events			
AcrySof vs. AMO Tecnis	–378	–308	–476
AcrySof vs. B&L Akreos	–951	–839	–1077
AcrySof vs. Lenstec Softec	–1,385	–1245	–1539
AcrySof vs. Rayner C-/Super-flex	–1,427	–1259	–1609
Reduction in the number of CME events			
AcrySof vs. AMO Tecnis	–719	–586	–905
AcrySof vs. B&L Akreos	–1810	–1597	–2049
AcrySof vs. Lenstec Softec	–2,635	–2369	–2928
AcrySof vs. Rayner C-/Super-flex	–2,715	–2395	–3061

CME = cystoid macular edema, IOL = intraocular lens, Nd:YAG = neodymium-doped yttrium aluminum garnet laser, RD = retinal detachment

Cost results

- The total national healthcare costs of Nd:YAG capsulotomy procedure and its complications associated with each IOL considered in the analysis were - AcrySof: €1.61 million; AMO Tecnis: €3.42 million; B&L Akreos: €6.18 million; Lenstec Softec: €8.26 million and Rayner C-/Super-flex: €8.46 million
- Total estimated cost savings with the use of single-piece monofocal AcrySof IOL for the budget owner in the Netherlands ranged from €1.81 (vs. AMO Tecnis IOL) to €6.85 million (vs. Rayner C-/Super-flex IOL) (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Total cost savings for budget owners with the use of AcrySof over other IOLs in the Netherlands



Sensitivity analysis

- Cost savings for the budget owner were most affected by Nd:YAG capsulotomy rates
- The results for sensitivity analysis are presented in Table 3

Table 3. Sensitivity analysis results for total costs savings with ±10% variation in the costs of Nd:YAG capsulotomy, retinal detachment, glaucoma and cystoid macular edema

Comparisons	Lowest estimate (all costs decreased by 10%)	Highest estimate (all costs increased by 10%)
AcrySof vs. AMO Tecnis	€1,329,981	€2,512,187
AcrySof vs. B&L Akreos	€3,627,222	€5,689,365
AcrySof vs. Lenstec Softec	€5,380,379	€8,127,664
AcrySof vs. Rayner C-/Super-flex	€5,440,833	€8,497,104

Limitations

- The usual demerits of using retrospective data cannot be overlooked including susceptibility to confounding, issues like missing data and lack of validation

CONCLUSIONS

- In this analysis, we estimated the cost impact of Nd:YAG laser capsulotomy and its complications due to the use of five single-piece monofocal acrylic IOLs from the perspective of the Dutch national healthcare system. Our findings indicate that performing cataract surgery with AcrySof IOLs could substantially offset the treatment burden of Nd:YAG capsulotomy procedures and subsequent complications in 3 years post-cataract surgery period when compared with other single-piece monofocal acrylic IOLs resulting in cost savings of €1.81 million to €6.85 million. Results highlight that the appropriate choice of IOL for cataract surgery, as a direct consequence of lower Nd:YAG capsulotomy rates and associated complications – may translate into significant savings for the Dutch national healthcare system

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Disclosure

OJB, RB, RdR, CPV & DOB are employees of Alcon

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