The increased use of surgical adjuncts in complex cataract surgeries undertaken in the COVID pandemic

Dr Iain Davidson, Dr David Lockington, Gartnavel General Hospital, NHS Glasgow & Greater Clyde

Aim

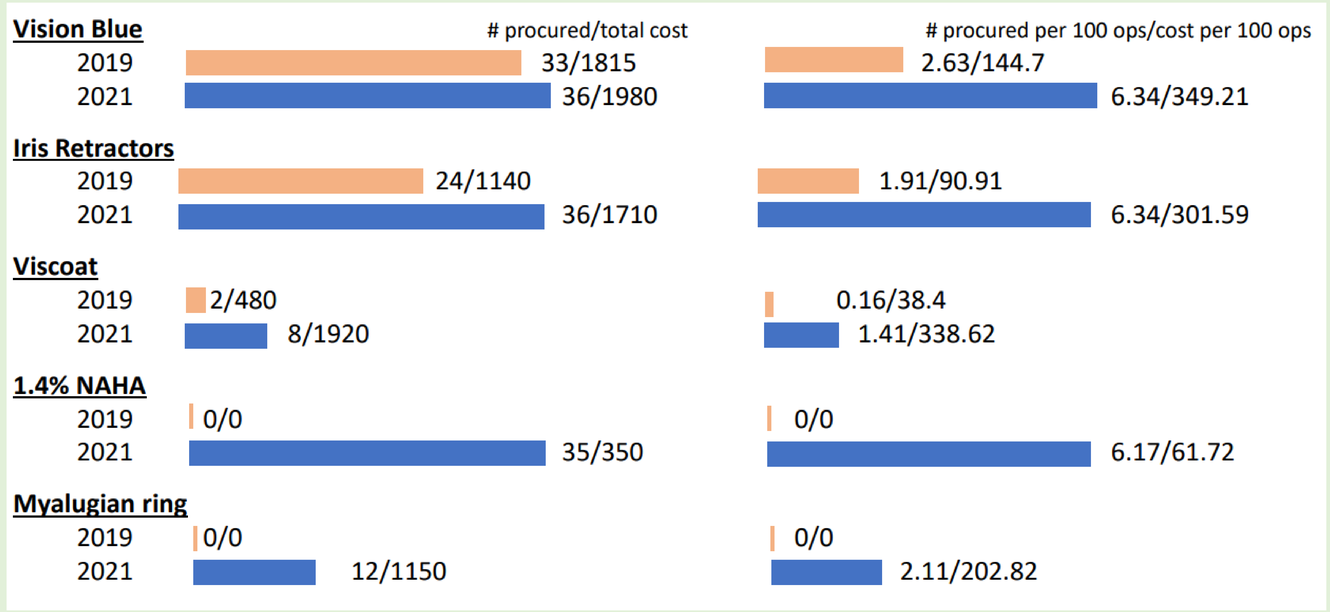
Identify the usage of surgical adjuncts as a surrogate indicator for complex cataract surgeries undertaken before and during the COVID-19 pandemic at a tertiary referral university hospital (Gartnavel General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland).

Methods

- Procurement of surgical adjuncts used as a surrogate for complex cataract operations.
- Rates and cost per 100 operations was compared between a pre-pandemic and pandemic period (March to August 2019 and 2021 respectively)

Adjuncts (cost per unit in £)

- Trypan blue (55)
- Iris retractors (47.50)
- Viscoat (240)
- 1.4% sodium hyaluronate OVD (10)
- Iris expansion (myalugian) rings (95.83)



Implications

This study provides evidence that significantly more complex cataract operations are currently being performed under pandemic restrictions.
These findings partly demonstrate the increasing difficulty in identifying appropriate training cases within the tertiary hospital services during the pandemic. Engagement with other ophthalmic centres who may operate on a less complex case mix may be required to fulfil training requirements going forward.

	2019	2021
Total operations	1254	567
Total number of adjuncts/cost	59/ £3435	127/ £7110
Cost/100 operations	£274.01	£1253.96

References
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