

► VISUALLY SPEAKING

(Congenital Cataract With Vascular Synechiae, continued from page 66)

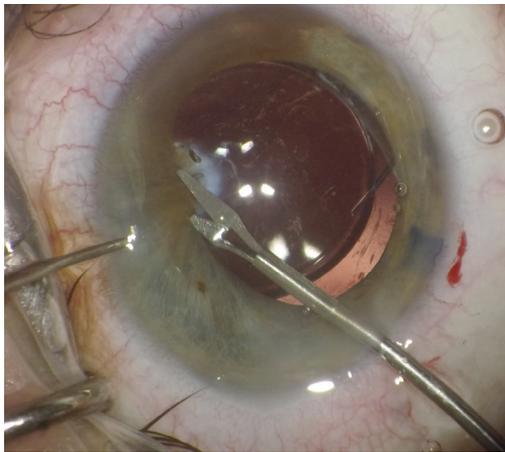


Figure 4. Microsissors are used to sever the vascular adhesions.

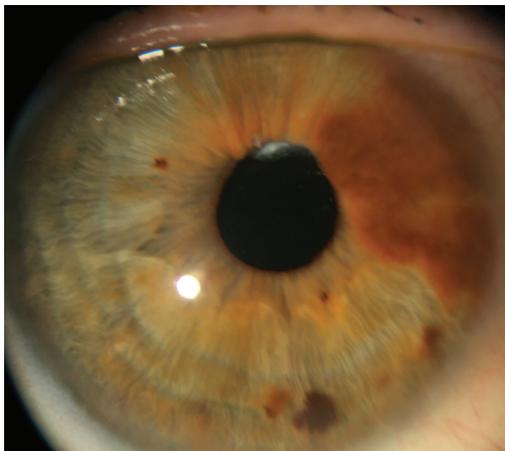


Figure 5. Postoperative photograph showing an excellent surgical result with a normal pupil size.

The anterior capsule was polished to decrease fibrosis and phimosis (Figure 3). After the placement of a three-piece IOL in the capsular bag, microsissors were used to sever the central portion of the anterior capsular adhesion, free the pupil, and retract the iris so that the capsular scar could be inspected (Figure 4). Intraocular preservative-free phenylephrine was used to limit hemorrhaging when the vascular synechial band was cut with microsissors. The capsular opacity was left intact and dissected postoperatively using an Nd:YAG laser.

Final pupil size was normal with an excellent surgical result (Figure 5). ■

JARED R. YOUNGER, MD

- Cataract and refractive surgeon, Orange Coast Eye Center, Fountain Valley, California
- President, Orange County Society of Ophthalmology, Irvine, California
- youngerjared@gmail.com
- Financial disclosure: Consultant (Johnson & Johnson Vision)

Figure 1. Cataract in an eye with a superior band of posterior synechiae, a prominent blood vessel, and a dense capsular opacity.

CONGENITAL CATARACT WITH VASCULAR SYNECHIAE



Pearls for surgical management.

BY JARED R. YOUNGER, MD

A patient presented with a visually significant cataract and dense congenital superior vascular and fibrotic posterior synechiae. Careful preoperative planning on how best to remove the cataract was required (Figure 1).

SURGICAL APPROACH

Manual cataract surgery with a temporal incision and staining of the anterior capsule was planned. The synechiae were left intact during the capsulotomy and cataract removal. An eccentric and oval capsulotomy was made. A chopper was used to retract the capsule to facilitate



Figure 2. A chopper is used to retract the capsule and facilitate phacoemulsification.

access by the phaco tip (Figure 2). A capsular tension ring was placed for support—the eyelets were oriented away from the capsular fornix under



Figure 3. An anterior capsular polisher is used to decrease fibrosis.

the area of adhesion because of the potential for a zonular defect in this area.

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