

## POSTERIOR VITRECTOMY PERFORMED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY IN THE PROVINCIAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL IN OLSZTYN – A NEW PROCEDURE, NEW CHALLENGES

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**Introduction.** Posterior vitrectomy involves the removing of the posterior vitreous body and the performing of additional repair procedures within the posterior segment of the eye. Indications for vitrectomy include: retinopathies, hemorrhages into the vitreous body, some diseases and disorders of the lens, eye injuries, endophthalmitis. The first vitrectomy was performed in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Provincial Specialist Hospital in Olsztyn on January 28, 2010.

**Aim.** To evaluate indications for and the number of vitrectomies performed in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Provincial Specialist Hospital in Olsztyn.

**Materials and methods.** In the Department of Ophthalmology at the Provincial Specialist Hospital in Olsztyn pars plana vitrectomies were performed. The procedures were carried out with the use of posterior vitrectomy cutters 20G, 23G and 25G.

**Results and discussion.** We performed 57 posterior vitrectomies between January 28 and December 31, 2010. The procedures were carried out for the following reasons: retinal detachment (36 procedures), lens problems (7 procedures), posttraumatic conditions (4 eyes), ocular complications of diabetes (3 procedures), hemorrhages into the vitreous body of unspecified etiology (4 procedures) and 1 procedure due to macular edema induced by vitreo-retinal traction. The following complications were observed in the early postoperative period: prolonged inflammation (3 eyes), hemorrhages into the vitreous body (3 eyes), secondary glaucoma (2 eyes). In the late postoperative period proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR) developed.

**Conclusions.** 1. Posterior vitrectomy is a technologically complicated procedure and requires substantial financial and human input. 2. Early complications observed in our center included: prolonged inflammation, postoperative hemorrhages into the vitreous body, secondary glaucoma. 3. Vitrectomy facilitates retaining a functional visual acuity. 4. Posterior vitrectomy is a chance for patients from our region who wait for this procedure to be performed in more distant clinical centers where it is difficult for them to get admitted for various reasons, including the financial ones.