Benefits of Unilateral Anterior Transposition of the Inferior Oblique Muscle

Perhaps the main reasons for avoiding unilateral anterior transposition of the inferior oblique muscle have been inducing primary position hypotropia in superior oblique palsy and for elevation deficits in adduction in other cases. However, this procedure has several benefits, as supported by Parvataneni and Olitsky in this issue of the Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus. It has been an effective method for reducing a significant hypertropia secondary to a lost or damaged inferior rectus muscle. In a patient with strabismus and a poor seeing eye, avoiding operating on a vertical rectus as a third muscle to correct the deviation is another scenario in which the unilateral anterior transposition can be used in an attempt to avoid anterior segment ischemia. Unilateral anterior transposition of the inferior oblique muscle has also been effective in treating unilateral dissociated vertical deviation. Although it is prudent to avoid unilateral anterior transposition of the inferior oblique muscle in cases of superior oblique palsy, this is an effective and safe procedure for other forms of vertical strabismus.

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