

# Comparison of visual performance of toric vs non-toric intraocular lenses with same material

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**Aim:** We compared the visual performance of toric intraocular lenses (IOLs) and non-toric IOLs made of the same material.

**Patients and materials:** The subjects included patients implanted with either Acrysof IQ<sup>®</sup> toric IOLs (SN6AT3-9) or Acrysof IQ<sup>®</sup> IOLs (SN60WF) bilaterally. The toric group included 103 patients who were implanted with Acrysof IQ toric IOLs bilaterally. The non-toric group was a corneal astigmatism-matched control group and included 103 patients who were implanted with Acrysof IQ IOLs bilaterally.

**Results:** The uncorrected distance visual acuity was significantly better in the toric group, whereas the uncorrected 50 cm visual acuity was better in the non-toric group. There was no significant difference in contrast sensitivity (with and without glare) between both the groups. The rate of spectacle dependency for distance vision was significantly lower in the toric group. There were no significant differences between the two groups in all items of the postoperative quality-of-vision questionnaire (25-item Visual Function Questionnaire).

**Conclusion:** The toric IOLs used in this study reduced spectacle dependency more than the non-toric IOLs and did not compromise the subjective visual function, but the uncorrected 50 cm vision was worse in toric IOL implanted eyes.

**Keywords:** cataract, cataract surgery, astigmatism, visual function

## Introduction

In recent years, one of the goals of cataract surgery is to provide better uncorrected visual acuity (VA). Generally, the use of spherical intraocular lenses (IOLs) with appropriate power provides patients without corneal astigmatism good postoperative uncorrected VA. However, previous reports have shown that among the patients in the most prevalent age group for cataract surgery, about 40% had corneal astigmatism greater than 1.0 D and about 10% had astigmatism greater than 2.0 D.<sup>1,2</sup> For the patients with corneal astigmatism, achieving good postoperative uncorrected VA by inserting spherical IOLs alone is not promising. Toric IOLs are being used to address this issue.

Spectacle dependency greatly affects the quality of life (QOL) after surgery. Toric IOLs are expected to reduce distance vision spectacle dependency after surgery by reducing astigmatism. However, mild astigmatism reportedly improves the uncorrected near VA (UNVA).<sup>3</sup> Therefore, it is interesting to see how toric IOLs affect near vision spectacle dependency.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the visual performance and postoperative vision-related QOL in patients implanted with toric IOLs. We compared the patients implanted with toric IOLs bilaterally and the patients, who had the same degree of preoperative corneal astigmatism as that of the control group, implanted bilaterally with non-toric IOLs made of the same material. Distance and near (50 and 30 cm,

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respectively) corrected and uncorrected VA and contrast sensitivity with and without glare were first measured to evaluate the visual function of toric IOL inserted eyes. We then analyzed the responses to the 25-item National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25) and the rate of distance and near spectacle dependency to evaluate postoperative vision-related QOL in patients implanted with toric IOLs.

## Patients and methods

### Patients

This case–control study included patients who underwent bilateral cataract surgery at the Department of Ophthalmology, Tsukazaki Hospital between April 2009 and June 2014. The patients were implanted with either toric or non-toric IOLs made of the same material and design. The toric group received SN6AT series (Alcon Inc., Fort Worth, TX, USA) IOLs (SN6AT3–SN6AT9; Alcon Inc.) bilaterally, and the non-toric group received SN60WF (Alcon Inc.). We included only patients expected to achieve normal vision, and the patients with ocular diseases that impair the visual function except cataract were excluded.

The two groups were matched to have equivalent preoperative corneal astigmatism power. Specifically, both the groups were stratified by every  $\pm 0.2$  D from the mean power, and the same number of samples was randomly selected, so that both groups had equivalent preoperative corneal astigmatism power. As a result of this matching, we had 103 subjects in each group to be used for statistical analysis.

### Preoperative examination

Prior to surgery, all patients received the following examination, including evaluations of the axial length, radius of corneal curvature, corneal astigmatism, pupil size, refractive status, ocular aberrometry, distance VA, near VA and contrast sensitivity, an anterior segment evaluation using a slit lamp and funduscopy. We measured the axial length, radius of corneal curvature, corneal astigmatism, refractive status, VA and contrast sensitivity twice within 2 months before cataract surgery, and then used the average. The quality of vision was evaluated using the Japanese version of the NEI VFQ-25.<sup>4</sup> Interviews using VFQ-25 were conducted by skilled nurses or technicians in a face-to-face manner.

Corrected distance VA (CDVA) and uncorrected distance VA (UDVA) were measured at 5.0 m distance. Corrected near VA (CNVA) and UNVA were measured at 0.3 m distance. UDVA, CDVA, UNVA and CNVA values were measured using the decimal VA chart, and then the measured decimal

VA values were converted to the logarithm of the minimum angle of resolution scale. Axial length was measured by IOL Master (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) and AL-3000 (TOMEY, Nagoya, Japan). Radius of corneal curvature, corneal astigmatism and refractive status were measured by KR-8900 (Topcon, Tokyo, Japan). Contrast sensitivity (with/without glare) was measured by CGT-1000 (Takagi Seiko, Nakano, Japan). Pupil size and ocular aberrometry were measured by KR-1W (Topcon). All examinations and data acquisition were carried out by skilled technicians.

### Surgical procedures and IOLs

Six experienced surgeons performed the cataract surgeries. The surgical procedure was conducted as follows: topical anesthesia, the creation of 2.8 mm temporal corneal incision, 5.0 mm continuous curvilinear capsulorhexis, phacoemulsification and aspiration of lens material and IOL implantation using an IOL injector. The patients were implanted with either SN60WF or SN6AT series IOL. We used the personal surgically induced astigmatism value to determine the lens model and axis location. Axis deviation of toric IOL was measured at 1 week after surgery. We repositioned the IOL when the axis deviation exceeded  $10^\circ$ .

### Postoperative examination

We measured the CDVA, UDVA, CNVA, UNVA and contrast sensitivity (with/without glare) twice (at postoperative weeks 10 and 14) and used the average. Pupil size and ocular aberrometry were measured 14 weeks after surgery. The VFQ-25 and spectacle dependency were evaluated 18 weeks after surgery. The measurements from right eyes were used to evaluate VA and contrast sensitivity.

### Statistical analyses

The statistical analyses were performed using a commercially available software program (JMP, version 10.0; SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). Statistical significance was defined as two-tailed *P*-value  $< 0.05$ .

### Ethics statement

The procedures used in this study conformed to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki and were approved by the Ethics Committee of Tsukazaki Hospital. Signed informed consent was obtained from all patients after they were informed of the procedures. This study is registered as UMIN000006852: “Comparison between toric and non-toric intraocular lens implantation in patients approved for toric intraocular lens implantation.”

## Results

Table 1 gives a summary of the two groups. There was no significant difference in the mean age between the toric and non-toric groups (72.25 and 73.69 years, respectively). There was also no significant difference in preoperative corneal astigmatism (the mean cylinder power of both eyes) and subjective astigmatism between the two groups. The postoperative subjective astigmatism was significantly lower in the toric group (0.84 D) than the non-toric group (1.42 D). No significant difference was found in the postoperative spherical equivalent and the axis of subjective astigmatism.

Figure 1 shows the results of postoperative VA in both groups. UDVA was significantly better in the toric group and U50cmVA was significantly better in the non-toric group. There were no statistically significant differences in CDVA, C50cmVA, U30cmVA or C30cmVA between the two groups. Figure 2 shows a comparison of cumulative postoperative UDVA between the two groups. About 70% of the patients in the toric group achieved UDVA of 20/20 or better while only about 50% did so for the non-toric group. Table 2 shows the findings of postoperative contrast sensitivity with and without glare. At all frequencies both with and without glare, there was no significant difference in contrast sensitivity between the two groups.

Table 3 shows the findings of postoperative spectacle dependency in both the groups. Spectacle dependency was defined as the percentage of subjects who always or occasionally used eyeglasses. The rate of distance spectacle dependency was significantly lower in the toric group (19.4%) compared to the non-toric group (66.6%). No significant difference was found in the rate of near spectacle dependency (toric group: 88.3%, non-toric group: 86.4%). Table 4 shows the postoperative scores of the NEI VFQ-25 of both the

groups. There were no significant differences in any question between the two groups.

## Discussion

In this study, we compared the visual performance of patients implanted with toric IOLs and non-toric IOLs. UDVA was significantly better in the toric IOL implanted eyes than the non-toric IOL implanted eyes, whereas near VA at 50 cm was significantly worse in the toric IOL implanted eyes than the non-toric IOL implanted eyes. No significant difference was found in near VA at 30 cm between the two groups. In addition, there were no significant differences in corrected VA and contrast sensitivity between the two groups. With respect to the postoperative QOL in patients implanted with toric IOLs bilaterally, the rate of distance spectacle dependency in patients implanted with toric IOLs bilaterally was significantly lower than those implanted with non-toric IOLs bilaterally. There were no significant differences in the rate of near spectacle dependency as well as the scores of VFQ-25 between the two groups.

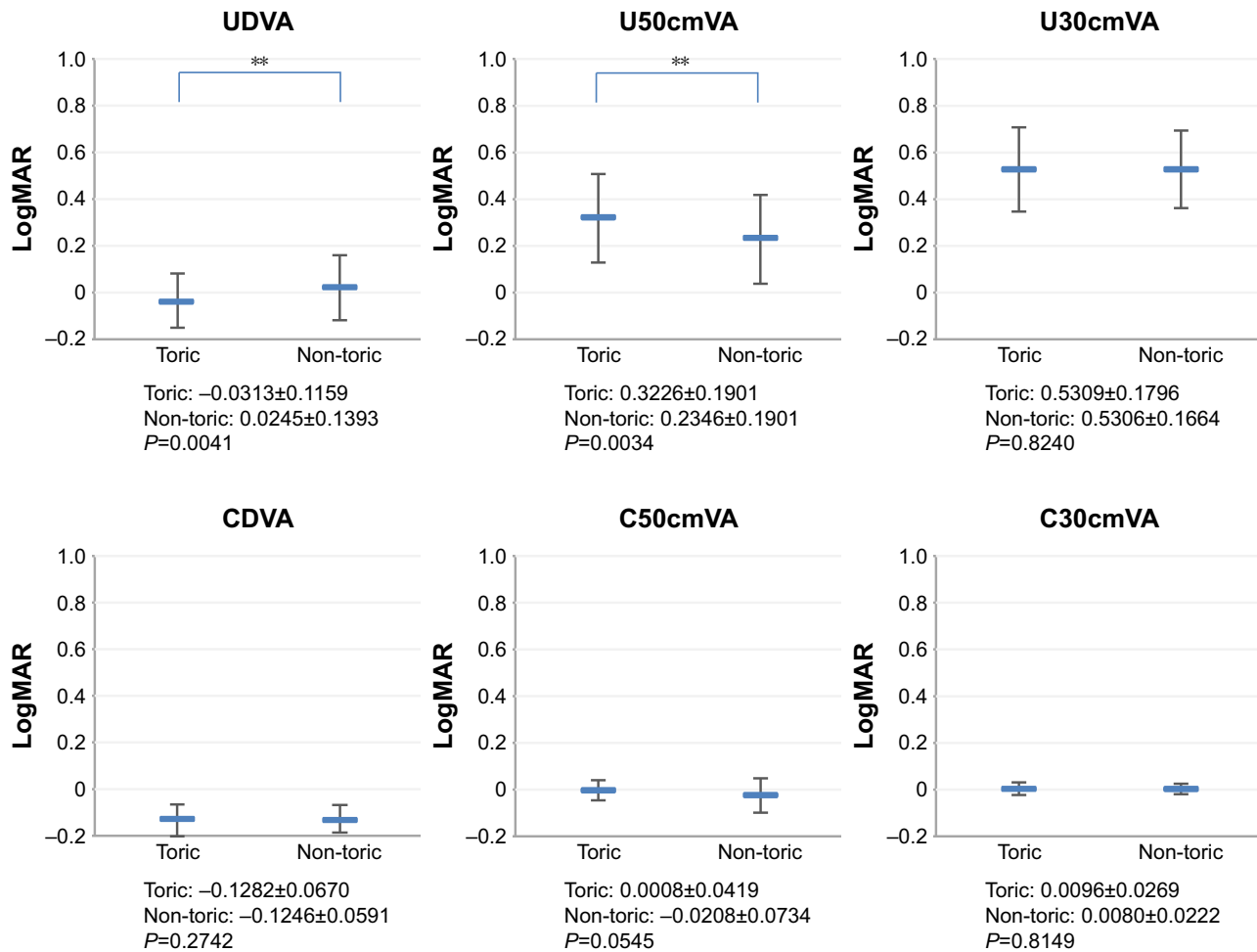
Regarding uncorrected VA, the distance VA of the toric IOL implanted eyes was significantly better than that of the non-toric IOL implanted eyes, whereas 50 cm VA of the toric group was significantly inferior to that of the non-toric group, and no difference was observed in 30 cm VA between the two groups. The primary aim of toric IOL implantation is to reduce astigmatism of an entire eye by creating astigmatism in the eye which offsets the corneal astigmatism, and the present study also consistently showed that the postoperative subjective astigmatism of the toric group was lower than that of the non-toric group. In this study, UDVA of the toric IOL implanted eyes was better than that of the non-toric IOL implanted eyes, which confirms the primary feature of toric IOLs and a finding that is consistent with the previous

**Table 1** Summary of both the groups

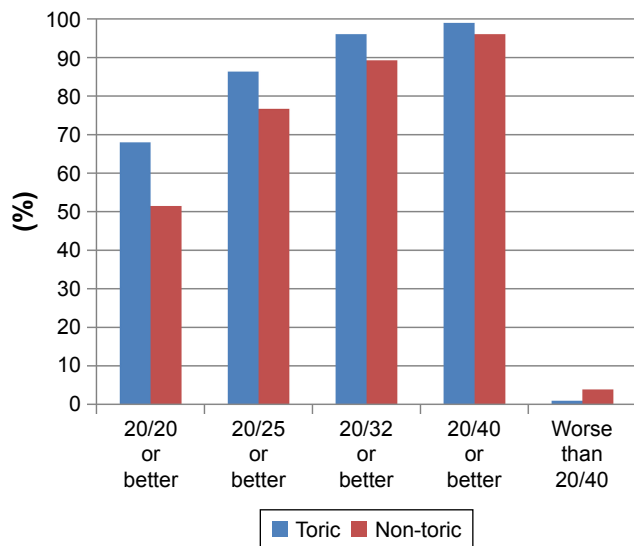
	Toric	Non-toric	P-value
IOL	SN6AT3-9	SN60WF	
n	103	103	
Age (years)	72.25 (6.78) <sup>a</sup>	73.69 (7.18) <sup>a</sup>	0.1411 <sup>b</sup>
Preoperative corneal astigmatism (D) <sup>c</sup>	1.133 (0.444) <sup>a</sup>	1.127 (0.41) <sup>a</sup>	0.9181 <sup>d</sup>
Postoperative spherical equivalent (D)	0.089 (0.492) <sup>a</sup>	-0.015 (0.525) <sup>a</sup>	0.1433 <sup>b</sup>
Postoperative subjective astigmatism (D) <sup>c</sup>	0.84 (0.442) <sup>a</sup>	1.42 (0.698) <sup>a</sup>	<0.0001 <sup>b</sup>
Axis of postoperative subjective astigmatism <sup>c,e</sup>	WTR: 14 Obl: 15 ATR: 54 None: 20	WTR: 17 Obl: 10 ATR: 69 None: 7	0.8996 <sup>f</sup>

**Notes:** <sup>a</sup>Mean (SD). <sup>b</sup>P-value by Student's *t*-test (two sided). <sup>c</sup>Astigmatism of right eyes. <sup>d</sup>P-value by Mann-Whitney *U* test (two sided). <sup>e</sup>Number of subjects. None: subjects with cylinder power <0.5 D. <sup>f</sup>P-value by chi-squared test (WTR/ATR ratio).

**Abbreviations:** ATR, against the rule astigmatism; IOL, intraocular lens; Obl, oblique astigmatism; WTR, with the rule astigmatism.



**Figure 1** Uncorrected and corrected VA of the toric and non-toric groups (mean±SD).  
**Notes:** The P-values were determined using the Mann-Whitney U test. \*\*P<0.01.  
**Abbreviations:** CDVA, corrected distant VA; LogMAR, logarithm of the minimum angle of resolution; UDVA, uncorrected distant VA; VA, visual acuity.



**Figure 2** Cumulative UDVA, toric group vs non-toric group.  
**Abbreviation:** UDVA, uncorrected distant visual acuity.

reports.<sup>5-7</sup> Our results also showed that uncorrected 50 cm VA was better in the non-toric group than the toric group. To our knowledge, there have been no previous reports concluding that the UNVA of toric IOL implanted eyes is inferior to that of the non-toric IOL implanted eyes; however, increase in depth of focus in regular astigmatism has been reported.<sup>3,8,9</sup> Therefore, the fact that the postoperative astigmatism in non-toric IOL implanted eyes occurs more frequently than the toric group may have contributed to better uncorrected 50 cm VA in the non-toric group. As for contrast sensitivity, no significant difference was found between the toric and non-toric groups. Our results on the contrast sensitivity of the toric and non-toric implanted eyes having similar level of corneal astigmatism were consistent with previous studies, which showed no significant difference between the two groups.<sup>10</sup> Previously we reported that the contrast sensitivity

**Table 2** Contrast sensitivity without/with glare

Optotype size	Toric	Non-toric	P-value <sup>a</sup>
<b>A. Contrast sensitivity without glare</b>			
7	0.318 (0.119)	0.333 (0.122)	0.2521
10	0.163 (0.108)	0.168 (0.107)	0.4351
16	0.085 (0.073)	0.085 (0.056)	0.2670
25	0.049 (0.037)	0.050 (0.030)	0.4235
40	0.038 (0.028)	0.038 (0.022)	0.6695
63	0.033 (0.028)	0.028 (0.013)	0.1943
<b>B. Contrast sensitivity with glare</b>			
7	0.385 (0.105)	0.397 (0.102)	0.3767
10	0.235 (0.125)	0.244 (0.131)	0.6461
16	0.133 (0.102)	0.136 (0.105)	0.8074
25	0.086 (0.072)	0.089 (0.079)	0.9308
40	0.061 (0.042)	0.064 (0.049)	0.3366
63	0.052 (0.037)	0.044 (0.027)	0.1614

**Notes:** Mean (SD). <sup>a</sup>P-value by Mann-Whitney U test (two-sided).

of the patients implanted with diffractive multifocal IOLs was inferior to that of the patients implanted with monofocal IOLs of the same material,<sup>11</sup> however, such contrast sensitivity loss was not observed with toric IOLs in the present study.

The rate of distance spectacle use was significantly lower in patients implanted with toric IOLs bilaterally than those implanted with non-toric IOLs bilaterally. This result seems to reflect that UDVA of the toric group is better than that of the non-toric group. In addition, this finding is consistent with many of the previous reports<sup>5-7,10,12</sup> and shows the clinical usefulness of toric IOLs. On the other hand, there was no significant difference in the rate of near spectacle use between the two groups; the rate was about 90% for both the groups. The VA at 50 cm was better in the non-toric group than the toric group; however, the increase in depth of focus is unlikely to have any effect on decreasing the near spectacle dependency. With respect to the VFQ-25 scores, there were no significant differences between the two groups. VFQ-25 is a quality of vision questionnaire<sup>13</sup> and has been utilized for the evaluation of a variety of ocular diseases.<sup>14-16</sup>

The Japanese version of VFQ-25 has been validated by Suzukamo et al.<sup>4</sup> This report seems to be the first study comparing the responses to VFQ-25 between patients with bilateral implantation of toric IOLs and the matched patients with bilateral implantation of non-toric IOLs. In our previous study, we evaluated the VFQ-25 responses of the patients implanted with diffractive multifocal IOLs bilaterally and the matched patients implanted with monofocal IOLs bilaterally<sup>11</sup> and concluded that the patients with multifocal IOLs scored significantly less on nighttime driving than the counterpart; however, such a difference in the score was not observed between the toric and non-toric groups in this study.

There are options other than toric IOL implantation to correct astigmatism in cataract surgery. The simplest method is a steep meridian incision. This technique is very effective for correcting mild astigmatism. However, it is impossible to correct moderate–strong astigmatism. Mingo-Botín et al<sup>17</sup> and Hirnschall et al<sup>18</sup> compared toric IOL implantation with peripheral corneal relaxing incision (PCRI) and reported that the predictability of postoperative astigmatism is inferior in PCRI. Moreover, PCRI has problems such as foreign body sensation and regression of astigmatism reduction. Astigmatic keratotomy (AK) is another alternative for correcting astigmatism. Titiyal et al reported that the astigmatic correction performance of AK is equivalent to that of toric IOL implantation.<sup>19</sup> However, AK is more invasive to the cornea and can cause corneal ectasia. Furthermore, AK requires special instruments. For the above reasons, we consider that toric IOL implantation is the best option to correct moderate–strong astigmatism in most institutions.

One of the limitations of the present study is that the study was a retrospective study. The patients were not randomly selected to be put in one of the two groups, the toric group or the non-toric group, to receive either IOL. In recent years, we have been primarily using toric IOLs for our patients when better visual performance can be expected by the use of toric

**Table 3** Postoperative spectacle dependency

	Never (n)	Occasionally (n)	Always (n)	Spectacle dependency (%)	P-value
Distance					0.0003
Toric	83	9	11	19.4	
Non-toric	35	7	61	66.0	
Near					0.3514
Toric	12	23	68	88.3	
Non-toric	14	15	74	86.4	

**Note:** The P-values were determined using the chi-squared test.

**Table 4** Postoperative scores of the NEI VFQ-25

	Toric	Non-toric	P-value
Composite	89.9 (0.6)	89.9 (0.8)	P=0.3261
General health	60.7 (1.6)	60.9 (1.6)	P=0.9588
General vision	79.6 (1.1)	78.4 (1.3)	P=0.6220
Ocular pain	88.9 (1.5)	90.5 (1.4)	P=0.4294
Near vision	90.5 (1.2)	92.0 (1.5)	P=0.1351
Distance vision	93.2 (1.0)	92.6 (1.1)	P=0.8049
Social function	95.6 (0.8)	95.6 (0.9)	P=0.5638
Mental health	94.8 (0.9)	94.9 (1.3)	P=0.0930
Role limitation	95.9 (0.7)	95.7 (1.0)	P=0.2254
Dependency	98.0 (0.6)	97.9 (0.7)	P=0.3707
Driving	91.1 (1.5)	90.4 (1.5)	P=0.8354
Color vision	96.8 (0.9)	97.3 (0.9)	P=0.6931
Peripheral vision	94.2 (1.2)	92.7 (1.5)	P=0.8301

**Notes:** The shown values represent the mean (SD) of 103 patients in each group, except for the questions regarding driving and color vision. For the question on driving, the value was derived from the responses of 58 patients in the toric group and 64 patients in the non-toric group. For the question on color vision, the value was derived from the responses of 102 patients in the toric group and 100 patients in the non-toric group. The P-values were determined using Mann–Whitney U test (two sided).

**Abbreviation:** NEI VFQ-25, 25-item National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire.

IOLs. Therefore, most of the patients included in the non-toric group in this study were those who underwent cataract surgery before the SN6AT series IOLs became available at our clinic; so, the timing of cataract surgery slightly differs between the toric group and the non-toric group. However, since there have been no major changes in the surgical procedures as well as surgeons at our clinic, the difference in timing of the surgeries is unlikely to influence the study results.

## Conclusion

We compared the visual performance in patients with corneal astigmatism who were implanted with toric or non-toric IOL. The postoperative UDVA was better in the toric group, while the uncorrected VA at 50 cm was better in the non-toric group. In addition, the patients implanted with toric IOLs bilaterally showed reduced distance spectacle dependency compared to those implanted with non-toric IOLs bilaterally. There were no significant differences in contrast sensitivity and the VFQ-25 scores between the two groups. Toric IOL offers more clinical benefits than non-toric IOL as long as IOL power and placement orientation are appropriate, thus the use of toric IOLs can be highly recommended for patients with corneal astigmatism.

## Data sharing statement

The datasets are available in the “figshare” repository, [https://figshare.com/articles/data\\_of\\_toric\\_IOL/1335752](https://figshare.com/articles/data_of_toric_IOL/1335752).

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## Author contributions

TY, HT and YK designed the study. TY and HT wrote the manuscript. TY, HT and KT contributed to analysis and interpretation of data. KT, ZO, HI and YK assisted in preparation of the manuscript. All authors contributed to data analysis, drafting and revising the article, gave final approval of the version to be published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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