Dr. Marko Hawlina reported that the visual acuity remained remarkably stable thereafter and did not change much over the course of five years,” said Dr. Hawlina.

The results for visual acuity at six months were 0.57 (+/-0.38), 0.58 at one year (+/-0.4), 0.61 at three years (+/-0.4) and 0.58 at five years (+/-0.36), with 8.1 per cent of patients requiring N-d-YAG laser capsulotomy.

He noted that at three years, 54.5 per cent of patients recorded a visual acuity better than 0.8, while just over nine per cent of patients scored worse than 0.05 due to posterior segment complications. Other complications included reversible reactivation of the disease in one patient, cystoid macular oedema in four eyes, three of which were irreversible, tractional retinal detachment in two eyes and subsequent vitrectomy, and two eyes had epiretinal membrane not associated with cataract surgery.

Dr. Hawlina concluded that cataract surgery in uveitic eyes has been shown to offer good visual rehabilitation, especially with the use of modern intracocular lenses, which offer good biocompatibility.

“The average visual acuity for our group of patients did not deteriorate greatly over five years, and approximately 50 per cent of the patients in our mixed uveitis population achieved visual acuity of 0.8 to 1.0.” Approximately one-fifth of patients scored worse because of pre-existing posterior segment reasons and about 10 per cent because of cystoid macular oedema as the most frequent postoperative complication.

Nevertheless, we conclude that implantation of IOLs is a safe procedure in properly selected cases of uveitic cataract and can give predictably good visual results,” he said.

Dr. Abela-Formanek affirmed that the BioVue 3 demonstrated a high uveal biocompatibility and good centration in eyes with uveitis. “The high hydrophilic and heparin surface properties are responsible for the reduced cellular reaction on the IOI surface in eyes with ongoing chronic inflammation of the anterior chamber,” she said.

Marko Hawlina
Claudette Abela-Formanek