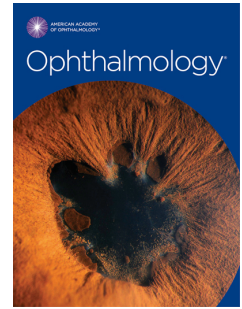


# Journal Pre-proof



Three-year findings of the HORIZON trial: a Schlemm canal microstent for pressure reduction in primary open angle glaucoma and cataract

Iqbal Ike K. Ahmed, MD, Douglas J. Rhee, MD, Jason Jones, MD, Inder Paul Singh, MD, Nathan Radcliffe, MD, Gus Gazzard, MA(Cantab) MBBChir MD FRCOphth, Thomas W. Samuelson, MD, Jeb Ong, MD, Kuldev Singh, MD, On behalf of the HORIZON Investigators

PII: S0161-6420(20)31047-2

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ophtha.2020.11.004>

Reference: OPHTHA 11546

To appear in: *Ophthalmology*

Received Date: 12 May 2020

Revised Date: 24 October 2020

Accepted Date: 2 November 2020

Please cite this article as: Ahmed IIK, Rhee DJ, Jones J, Singh IP, Radcliffe N, Gazzard G, Samuelson TW, Ong J, Singh K, On behalf of the HORIZON Investigators, Three-year findings of the HORIZON trial: a Schlemm canal microstent for pressure reduction in primary open angle glaucoma and cataract, *Ophthalmology* (2020), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ophtha.2020.11.004>.

This is a PDF file of an article that has undergone enhancements after acceptance, such as the addition of a cover page and metadata, and formatting for readability, but it is not yet the definitive version of record. This version will undergo additional copyediting, typesetting and review before it is published in its final form, but we are providing this version to give early visibility of the article. Please note that, during the production process, errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

© 2020 Published by Elsevier Inc. on behalf of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

## TITLE

Three-year findings of the HORIZON trial: a Schlemm canal microstent for pressure reduction in primary open angle glaucoma and cataract

## AUTHORS

Iqbal Ike K Ahmed, MD<sup>1</sup>  
Douglas J. Rhee, MD<sup>2</sup>  
Jason Jones, MD<sup>3</sup>  
Inder Paul Singh, MD<sup>4</sup>  
Nathan Radcliffe, MD<sup>5</sup>  
Gus Gazzard, MA(Cantab) MBBChir MD FRCOphth<sup>6</sup>  
Thomas W. Samuelson, MD<sup>7</sup>  
Jeb Ong, MD<sup>1</sup>  
Kuldev Singh, MD<sup>8</sup>  
On behalf of the HORIZON Investigators

## CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Iqbal Ike K Ahmed, MD  
Prism Eye Institute  
2201 Bristol Circle  
Oakville, ON L6H OJ8  
Canada  
[ikeahmed@mac.com](mailto:ikeahmed@mac.com)

ADDRESS FOR REPRINTS: corresponding author

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT: See disclosure form

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: This study was supported by Ivantis, Inc., Irvine, CA.

MEETING PRESENTATION: The material has been previously presented at a meeting.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

<sup>2</sup>University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

<sup>3</sup>Jones Eye Clinic, Sioux City, IA

<sup>4</sup>Eye Centers of Racine and Kenosha, Keonsha, WI

<sup>5</sup>New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Mt. Sinai, New York, NY

<sup>6</sup>NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK & Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London, UK

<sup>7</sup>Minnesota Eye Consultants, Minneapolis, MN

<sup>8</sup>Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA

## 1 ABSTRACT

2 **Objective:** To report 3-year outcomes of the HORIZON study comparing cataract surgery  
3 with Hydrus Microstent versus cataract surgery alone.

4 **Design:** Multicenter randomized clinical trial.

5 **Participants:** Five hundred fifty-six eyes from 556 patients with cataract and POAG  
6 treated with  $\geq 1$  glaucoma medication, washed out diurnal intraocular pressure (DIOP)  
7 22-34 mmHg and no prior incisional glaucoma surgery.

8 **Methods:** Following phacoemulsification, eyes were randomized 2:1 to receive a  
9 Hydrus<sup>®</sup> Microstent (Ivantis, Inc.) or no stent. Follow-up included comprehensive eye  
10 examinations through 3 years postoperatively.

11 **Main outcome measures:** Outcome measures included IOP, medical therapy, reoperation  
12 rates, visual acuity, adverse events, and changes in corneal endothelial cell counts.

13 **Results:** 369 eyes were randomized to microstent treatment (HMS) and 187 to cataract  
14 surgery only (CS). Preoperative IOP, medication usage, washed out DIOP, and glaucoma  
15 severity did not differ between the two treatment groups. At 3 years, IOP was  $16.7 \pm 3.1$   
16 in the HMS group and  $17.0 \pm 3.4$  in the CS group ( $p=0.85$ ). The number of glaucoma  
17 medications was  $0.4 \pm 0.8$  in the HMS group and  $0.8 \pm 1.0$  in the CS group ( $p<0.001$ ),  
18 and 73% of eyes in the HMS group were medication free compared to 48% in the CS  
19 group ( $p<0.001$ ). The HMS group had a higher proportion of eyes with IOP  $\leq 18$  mmHg  
20 without medications compared to CS (56.2% vs. 34.6%,  $p<0.001$ ) as well as IOP  
21 reduction of at least 20, 30 or 40 percent compared to CS alone. The cumulative  
22 probability of incisional glaucoma surgery was lower in the HMS group (0.6% vs. 3.9%,  
23 hazard ratio = 0.156, 95% CI 0.031 to 0.773,  $p=0.020$ ). There was no difference in

24 postoperative corneal endothelial cell loss between groups. There were no procedure or  
25 device related serious adverse events resulting in vision loss in either group.

26 **Conclusions:** Combined cataract surgery and microstent placement for mild to moderate  
27 POAG is safe, more effective in lowering IOP with fewer medications, and less likely to  
28 result in further incisional glaucoma filtrations surgery than cataract surgery alone at 3  
29 years.

Journal Pre-proof

## 30 INTRODUCTION

31 Age-related cataract and glaucoma are the two most commonly diagnosed ocular  
32 disorders in the United States.<sup>1</sup> At least 4 different prospective, multicenter randomized  
33 clinical studies have demonstrated that minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS)  
34 implants placed in Schlemm's canal in conjunction with cataract surgery lowers IOP and  
35 hypotensive medication use compared to cataract surgery alone for 2 years.<sup>2,3,4,5</sup> It is also  
36 noteworthy that implantation of these devices have safety profiles similar to cataract  
37 surgery alone, thereby presenting an opportunity to surgically treat glaucoma without the  
38 common postoperative complications associated with bleb forming filtration procedures.<sup>6</sup>  
39 While there are several alternative MIGS techniques not involving surgical implants that  
40 can be combined with cataract surgery, none of these have been evaluated in large scale,  
41 prospective multicenter randomized trials.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

42 Previously reported randomized data for the Hydrus microstent showed that the device  
43 significantly reduced IOP and medication use in primary open angle glaucoma, and that  
44 the primary effectiveness margin improved compared to control from year 1 to year 2.<sup>3</sup>  
45 The clinical findings were consistent with previous laboratory studies which  
46 demonstrated that the Hydrus device increases outflow facility.<sup>10</sup> The durability of the  
47 treatment effect beyond 2 years with other Schlemm's canal implants has not been  
48 previously established in prospective multicenter randomized trials. Reduced  
49 effectiveness from year 1 to year 2 was reported for the iStent in a randomized study.<sup>11</sup> In  
50 contrast to Schlemm's canal implants, long term follow-up for a supraciliary MIGS  
51 microstent showed that it was associated with significant late corneal endothelial cell loss  
52 compared to cataract surgery alone,<sup>12</sup> resulting in market withdrawal. Therefore, prior

53 experience with MIGS devices shows that long term follow-up is essential for a full  
54 assessment of device performance and safety. Accordingly, the objective of this report is  
55 to assess 36-month safety and effectiveness outcomes from the HORIZON study.

## 56 METHODS

### 57 Study Design and Inclusion Criteria

58 The HORIZON study was a prospective, multicenter, single masked, randomized,  
59 controlled clinical trial. The study was conducted at 38 investigational centers worldwide  
60 (26 sites in the US and 12 international). The study protocol was approved by local  
61 governing Institutional Review Board or Ethics Committee at all participating centers and  
62 by national regulatory agencies where applicable. The study was conducted according to  
63 the principles described in the Declaration of Helsinki and complied with Health  
64 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and local patient privacy protection  
65 regulations. All study subjects provided written informed consent prior to initiating study  
66 procedures and including follow-up for 5 years postoperative. The study is registered in  
67 the National Library of Medicine database (<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov> identifier  
68 NCT01539239).

69 Study oversight, randomization, wash out, and surgical procedures have been described  
70 previously.<sup>3</sup> Briefly, patients with age-related cataract and a diagnosis of mild to  
71 moderate POAG receiving 1–4 topical hypotensive medications were prospectively  
72 enrolled into the study. Eligible patients had ophthalmoscopically detectable  
73 glaucomatous optic neuropathy, mild to moderate visual field (VF) loss as defined by  
74 Hodapp-Anderson-Parrish criteria,<sup>13</sup> best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) 20/40 or worse  
75 with or without brightness acuity testing (BAT), Schaffer grade III-IV angle width in all

76 four quadrants, and a medicated IOP of 31 mmHg or less. After wash out of all  
77 hypotensive medications, continuation to randomization required a mean diurnal IOP  
78 (defined as the average of 3 Goldman tonometry measurements taken at 8 am, 12 pm and  
79 4 pm) between 22 and 34 mmHg, with an increase of at least 3 mmHg compared to the  
80 medicated IOP value recorded at the screening visit.

81 Patients with angle closure glaucoma, any secondary glaucoma, a visual field mean  
82 deviation worse than -12 dB, exudative age-related macular degeneration (AMD),  
83 proliferative diabetic retinopathy, or significant risk of glaucomatous progression due to  
84 wash out of IOP-lowering medications were excluded. Anatomical exclusion criteria  
85 were narrow anterior chamber angle (Shaffer grade I-II) or other angle abnormality  
86 visible upon gonioscopy, central corneal thickness of < 480 or >620 microns, or clinically  
87 significant corneal dystrophy. Patients with prior corneal surgery, cycloablation, or any  
88 incisional glaucoma procedure such as trabeculectomy, tube shunt implantation, deep  
89 sclerectomy or canaloplasty were also excluded. Prior selective laser trabeculoplasty  
90 (SLT) was allowed, but patients who had undergone prior argon laser trabeculoplasty  
91 were excluded.

92 Postoperative follow-up visits were scheduled at 1 day,  $7\pm 2$  days,  $30\pm 7$  days,  $90\pm 14$   
93 days,  $180\pm 21$  days,  $365 -28/+42$  days,  $545\pm 28$  days,  $738 -28/+42$  days, and  $1095 -28/+42$   
94 days. Follow-up procedures included slit lamp examination with gonioscopy, fundus  
95 examination, BCVA and IOP assessments with Goldmann Applanation Tonometry.

96 While medication wash out followed by diurnal IOP assessment was performed after the  
97 12 and 24 month visits, the 36 month visit did not for reasons related to cost and time  
98 burden on patient and investigational site staff. Perimetry testing was repeated at 6, 12,

99 18, 24, and 36 months postoperatively. Specular microscopy was used to determine  
100 endothelial cell density preoperatively and at 3, 6, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months  
101 postoperatively. Specular microscopy images were analyzed at an independent core  
102 laboratory.

### 103 Postoperative Care

104 Postoperatively, a topical antibiotic was administered for 7 days and a tapering dose of a  
105 topical corticosteroid for up to 4 weeks. Topical hypotensive medications were  
106 reintroduced or discontinued at the discretion of the examining investigator at any time  
107 after the procedure. In the event that medications did not result in sufficiently controlled  
108 IOP, SLT or incisional glaucoma surgery was performed, also at the investigator's  
109 discretion. Wash out of medications and IOP assessment were conducted only at 12 and  
110 24 months postoperatively.

### 111 Outcome Measures

112 Outcome measures included IOP, the need for glaucoma medical therapy, repeat  
113 glaucoma surgery rates, visual acuity, procedure-related adverse events, and corneal  
114 endothelial cell counts. A repeat glaucoma surgery was defined as any IOP-lowering  
115 procedure requiring a trip to the operating room, such as trabeculectomy or tube shunt  
116 implantation, or a cyclodestructive procedure, whether performed in the operating room  
117 or clinic. Since the investigators were not masked to treatment assignment, there was a  
118 potential for bias in the decision to perform subsequent surgery. Therefore, an  
119 adjudication committee composed of 5 independent glaucoma specialists (IA, TWS, GG,  
120 NR, DR) masked to treatment group reviewed each case for surgical necessity. Non-  
121 incisional procedures such as SLT were not considered repeat glaucoma surgery. Safety



122 assessments included visual acuity, slit lamp and fundus examinations, pachymetry  
123 measurements, automated visual field measurement (Humphrey 24-2 SITA standard),  
124 and specular microscopy. An adverse event was defined as any surgical complication or  
125 untoward finding relating to the patient's vision or ocular health, regardless of whether it  
126 was related or not to the device or the procedure. Loss of  $\geq 2$  lines of BCVA or  $\geq 2.5$ dB of  
127 visual field were defined as adverse events.

#### 128 Statistical Analysis

129 The study was powered to detect adverse events occurring at a frequency of 1% in the  
130 HMS group with a probability of  $\geq 95\%$ . A minimum of 300 subjects in the treatment  
131 group were therefore required based on this power calculation. Allowing for loss to  
132 follow-up and 2:1 randomization, a sample size of 556 was selected. Mean and standard  
133 deviation measurements are presented as continuous variables. Between and within group  
134 differences were tested with the use of two sample t-tests. For categorical variables,  
135 counts and percentages were presented according to treatment group; values were  
136 compared with the use of the Fisher's exact test for binary variables. Treatment  
137 comparisons of cumulative rate of failure and reoperation for glaucoma were assessed  
138 with the Kaplan-Meier survival analysis log-rank test. A p-value of 0.05 was considered  
139 statistically significant in the analysis.

#### 140 RESULTS

141 A total of 556 eyes were randomized to either HMS (N=369) or CS (N=187). Baseline  
142 subject demographics and preoperative characteristics were described previously and are  
143 available in **Table S1** ([www.aaojournal.org](http://www.aaojournal.org)). There were no significant differences  
144 between the two groups with regard to demographic or preoperative ocular

145 characteristics. Preoperatively, mean IOP was  $17.9 \pm 3.1$  in the HMS group and  $18.1 \pm$   
146  $3.1$  mmHg in the CS group. Approximately half of all subjects were taking one topical  
147 medication with the other half taking two or more medications at the time of initial  
148 screening (average  $1.7 \pm 0.9$  in both groups). The wash out procedure resulted in a mean  
149 baseline unmedicated DIOP of  $25.5 \pm 3.0$  mmHg in the HMS group and  $25.4 \pm 2.9$  mmHg  
150 in the CS group. The implant was successfully placed in 97.0% of subjects randomized to  
151 the HMS group. Three-year follow-up was completed in 332/369 (90.0%) subjects in the  
152 HMS group and 153/187 (81.8%) subjects in the CS group.

153 All patients who completed the 3-year postoperative examination or who had secondary  
154 incisional glaucoma surgery within the follow-up period were included in this analysis.  
155 While patients who had secondary surgical procedures were counted as failures against  
156 success criteria, these patients were not included in the calculation of mean IOP or  
157 medications. As shown in **Figures 1 and 2**, IOP was stable throughout follow-up and  
158 equal between study groups after 3 months, but there was a consistent reduction in  
159 medication count in the HMS group. After 3 years, mean  $\pm$  standard deviation IOP was  
160  $16.7 \pm 3.1$  in the HMS group and  $17.0 \pm 3.4$  in the CS group ( $p=.85$ ). The number of  
161 glaucoma medications was  $0.4 \pm 0.8$  in the HMS group and  $0.8 \pm 1.0$  in the CS group  
162 (difference = 0.4,  $p<0.001$ ). The mean medication count increased by 0.1 in both groups  
163 from 12 months to 36 months, so the between group difference in medication usage  
164 remained stable over the time period from 12-36 months.

165 Consistent with earlier timepoints (**Table S2**, [www.aojournal.org](http://www.aojournal.org)), significantly more  
166 eyes in the HMS group remained medication free at 3 years compared to the CS group  
167 (73% vs. 48%, difference = 25%,  $p<0.001$ ). The mean 3-year IOP of the unmedicated

168 eyes was  $16.4 \pm 3.2$  and  $17.1 \pm 3.1$  in the HMS and CS groups respectively, a finding  
169 consistent with earlier visits. The mean IOP in unmedicated eyes was slightly lower than  
170 the overall average IOP. These findings suggest there was no bias toward leaving HMS  
171 group eyes unmedicated at a higher IOP, even though the investigator was not masked to  
172 treatment group..

173 Medication free rates stratified by baseline medication count at 2 and 3 years are shown  
174 in **Table 1**. Eyes on 1 or 2 medications preoperatively were more likely to be medication  
175 free postoperatively compared to eyes on 3 or 4 medications. As shown in **Table 2**,  
176 significantly more eyes maintained an IOP of  $\leq 18$ mmHg without medications (56.2% vs.  
177 34.6%,  $p < 0.001$ ) and the fraction of eyes with medication-free reductions in IOP of 20%,  
178 30% and 40% vs. washed out baseline was consistently greater in the HMS versus the CS  
179 group.

#### 180 Secondary IOP Lowering Procedures

181 After 3 years of follow-up, there were 2 incisional glaucoma surgeries in the HMS group  
182 (0.6%) and 6 in the CS group (3.9%) at 3 years. The 8 surgeries consisted of 4 tube shunt  
183 implants and 4 trabeculectomies, and all were found to be warranted due to worsening  
184 glaucoma by the adjudication committee. The preoperative mean deviation in the eyes  
185 undergoing repeat surgery was -4.1 dB compared to the study mean of -3.6 dB, and 6 of 8  
186 surgeries were performed in eyes with mild preoperative glaucoma per Hodapp-  
187 Anderson-Parrish criteria.

188 As shown in **Figure 3**, Kaplan-Meier time to event analysis showed a significant increase  
189 in the risk of incisional surgery between groups at three years ( $p = 0.0086$ , log rank test).

190 The cumulative probability of incisional glaucoma surgery was 0.6% in the HMS group  
191 and 3.9% in the CS group (hazard ratio = 0.156, 95% CI 0.031 to 0.773, p=0.020).

#### 192 Safety

193 Vision and ocular health were assessed at each visit. By the first postoperative week,  
194  $\geq 94\%$  of eyes had best corrected visual acuity of 20/40 or better in both study groups, and  
195 at 36 months this percentage increased to 97%. As shown in **Table 3**, there were very few  
196 new adverse findings between 2 and 3 years. The only change in event rate of more than  
197 1% was for visual field loss of  $\geq 2.5$  dB in both HMS and CS groups and an increase in  
198 the number of SLT procedures in the CS group. There were no new reports of  
199 inflammation or corneal edema after the 3-month visit. The only findings unique to the  
200 HMS group were focal adhesions consisting of PAS or iris tissue near the device inlet.  
201 Gonioscopically observed PAS were present in 7.6% of HMS eyes at 3 years, of which  
202 4.3% visually obscured the inlet of the microstent. The observed rates for these events  
203 increased less than 1% between 2- and 3-year follow-up, and there were no adverse  
204 clinical sequelae, specifically IOP elevations, associated with these findings.

#### 205 ECD Findings

206 Mean central corneal endothelial cell density (ECD) was determined by analyzing  
207 specular microscopic images (CellChek®, Konan Medical, Inc, Hyogo, Japan) obtained  
208 at baseline and then repeated at 3, 6, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months. Triplicate images of the  
209 central endothelium were obtained for each eye at each timepoint. Images were analyzed  
210 at an independent reading center (Cornea Image Analysis Reading Center, University  
211 Hospitals Eye Institute, Cleveland OH). Cell counts were determined by 2 certified

212 readers masked to the study group using the Konan Center method;  $\geq 5\%$  differences were  
213 resolved by adjudication with a third reader. The effects of MIGS devices on the corneal  
214 endothelium has become an important metric requiring careful monitoring and reporting.  
215 Accordingly, it is important to emphasize that while other components of the Horizon  
216 Trial were single-masked, readers were masked to the study group for all specular  
217 microscopy images.

218 Mean central ECD at baseline was  $2417 \pm 390$  in the HMS group and  $2426 \pm 371$  in the  
219 CS group. There was a reduction of  $339 \text{ cells/mm}^2$  (13%) in the HMS group and  $264$   
220  $\text{cells/mm}^2$  (11%) in the CS group observed at the first postoperative ECD assessment at 3  
221 months; both of these values represented significant reductions in mean ECD compared  
222 to preoperative counts. The between group difference in mean central cell loss was not  
223 significant at this time point (difference = 75 cells,  $p=\text{ns}$ ). At 3 years, cumulative cell loss  
224 increased by 2% in the HMS group to 15% (95% CI 13% to 16%) and remained at 11%  
225 in the CS group (95% CI 9% to 13%, difference = 4%,  $p=\text{ns}$ ). Three-year mean central  
226 cell count was  $2056 \pm 483$  in the HMS group vs.  $2167 \pm 440$  in the CS group (difference  
227 = 111 cells,  $p=\text{ns}$ ). There was no significant difference in between group cell loss from 2  
228 to 3 years follow-up.

229 After the initial ECD reduction related to the surgical procedure, sequential visit-to-visit  
230 changes in endothelial cell counts were consistent between the study groups, as shown in  
231 **Figure 4**. Between 3 months and 12 months, mean central cell count increased in both  
232 HMS and CS groups (+9 and +13  $\text{cells/mm}^2$ , respectively). Thereafter, the change in  
233 ECD counts (HMS – CS) from 12 months to 24 months and from 24 months to 36

234 months was -44 and +12 cells/mm<sup>2</sup>. None of the visit to visit changes in endothelial cell  
235 counts were significant.

236 A loss of  $\geq 30\%$  in ECD is considered a threshold for significant change.<sup>14</sup> At 3 months,  
237  $\geq 30\%$  loss was observed in 17.3% of eyes in the HMS group and 9.4% of CS eyes, a  
238 between group difference of 7.9% ( $p=0.014$ ). Over the course of follow-up, the between  
239 group differences decreased as shown in **Figure 5**. At 36 months, the proportion of eyes  
240 with  $\geq 30\%$  endothelial cell loss dropped to 14.2% in the HMS group and increased to  
241 10.0% in the CS group (difference = 4.2%,  $p=0.239$ ). After the initial loss in cell count  
242 related to the surgery, there was no difference in the year to year change in the proportion  
243 of eyes with 30% endothelial cell between groups.

#### 244 DISCUSSION

245 This prospective, multicenter, randomized, trial demonstrates that Hydrus Microstent  
246 implantation combined with cataract surgery provides sustained reduction in the number  
247 of medications required to maintain a stable IOP compared to cataract surgery alone for 3  
248 years postoperative. In addition, 73% of HMS eyes required no medication compared to  
249 48% in the CS group, and the device implantation was associated with a greater  
250 proportion of eyes with IOP  $\leq 18$  mmHg or with IOP reductions of 20%, 30% or 40%  
251 compared to baseline. While there were significant differences in the number of  
252 medications, mean IOP for medicated and unmedicated eyes was not significantly  
253 different in either group.

254 The 2-year findings from the HORIZON study showed that HMS group was associated  
255 with greater IOP reduction after medication wash out compared to CS alone after  
256 medication wash out, as measured by a variety of metrics, including frequency of  $\geq 20\%$

257 IOP reduction and mean change in IOP. These results confirm the findings from an  
258 earlier randomized study<sup>4</sup> and are supported by a recent meta-analysis of the published  
259 literature for the Hydrus Microstent.<sup>15</sup> Although the 3-year findings do not include  
260 medication wash out, the IOP and medication usage findings are consistent with the 1 and  
261 2 year results where a significant IOP reduction in the HMS group was confirmed after  
262 medication wash out. The study design allowed investigators to add medication as needed  
263 to control IOP. Since that average IOP was similar in both treatment groups for both  
264 medicated and unmedicated eyes through the follow-up period, we do not see any  
265 indication that HMS eyes had medications withheld. Indeed, the mean IOP of  
266 unmedicated eyes was consistently lower in HMS eyes vs. CS eyes throughout the course  
267 of follow up (see supplement Table S2, [www.aaojournal.org](http://www.aaojournal.org)).

268 We found eyes on 1 preoperative medication were more likely to remain medication free  
269 at 3-years compared to eyes on  $\geq 2$  drops. There are many possible factors that could  
270 contribute to this finding. The most likely factor is IOP. A higher medication count  
271 correlates to a higher preoperative IOP. A recently published meta analysis of IOP  
272 changes after wash out in 1400 eyes with mild to moderate POAG from the HORIZON  
273 and COMPASS studies showed that the IOP increase after wash out is proportional to the  
274 number of medications.<sup>16</sup> Throughout follow up, there was a slight increase in visual  
275 field loss between medicated and unmedicated eyes, but the difference was small, within  
276 1 dB or less. Further, significant VF loss, defined as a loss of VF MD  $\geq 2.5$  dB, was 6.2%  
277 and 8.6% in the HMS and CS group. These results suggest there may be a modest  
278 influence of VF on medication decisions. Finally, it is possible that more severe disease  
279 correlates to a damaged outflow system, making these eyes more difficult to treat with

280 angle surgery. However, covariate analysis showed that mean deviation was not a  
281 predictor of 2 year washed out IOP reduction in the HORIZON study.<sup>17</sup> This finding may  
282 be related to constraints on allowable severity imposed by study entry criteria.

283 Medication usage is an important consideration in assessing outcomes for MIGS devices  
284 in combination with cataract surgery. This reflects the mild to moderate disease severity  
285 status of the population, and also that that the majority of the study population had a mid-  
286 teens IOP prior to the procedure, and would not otherwise be candidates for glaucoma  
287 surgery if not for the presence of an operable cataract. These findings are consistent with  
288 a previously published survey of Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services data for  
289 MIGS procedures showing that the primary impact of MIGS procedures has been to  
290 reduce the number of medications required to maintain IOP in the mid-teens.<sup>18</sup>

291 A notable finding in this study is the lower risk of glaucoma reoperations in the HMS  
292 group at 3 years. Although the incidence of such surgery is small, it cannot be discounted  
293 considering that filtering surgery is a major escalation in therapy with known serious  
294 risks, potential persistent ocular surface discomfort, refractive and anatomical alterations,  
295 and life-altering behavioral modifications.<sup>19,20,21</sup> Considering the morbidity of incisional  
296 bleb filtering surgery, both in the early and late postoperative period, any difference in  
297 these rates is likely to have a significant impact on the quality of life and long-term  
298 consequences faced by the patients, including the risk of bleb-related endophthalmitis and  
299 loss of visual acuity.

300 The study population in HORIZON had mild to moderate severity glaucoma, and the  
301 groups were well-balanced for significant risk factors (age, race, severity) at baseline.  
302 While postoperative wash outs were limited to 12 and 24 months, subsequent follow-up



303 visits included continuation and adjustment of required topical medical therapy to control  
304 IOP. The similarity in IOP values over the course of 3 years follow-up suggests that  
305 treatment targets were similar between groups and were generally maintained by titrating  
306 medication usage.

307 There was nothing remarkable about the visual field characteristics for the patients that  
308 required glaucoma surgery. There was no preoperative difference between the overall  
309 study visual field mean deviation and the visual field mean deviation for eyes that  
310 required repeat glaucoma surgery during follow-up. Indeed, 75% of eyes undergoing  
311 incisional glaucoma surgery had mild disease severity per study defined criteria prior to  
312 randomization. These findings are very similar to the difference in glaucoma surgery  
313 rates between SLT and medication groups over the same timeframe in the LiGHT  
314 study.<sup>22</sup> To address the potential for bias, incisional surgery events were adjudicated for  
315 clinical necessity by an independent committee masked to the treatment group. There was  
316 complete consensus among 5 glaucoma surgeons that each of the procedures were  
317 justified based on clinical presentation at the time of the surgery.

318 The difference in rate of secondary glaucoma surgery may be related to the number of  
319 eyes that achieved drop-free IOP control in the HMS group. Persistence and adherence  
320 with medication use are well known limitations of topical medication regimens,<sup>23</sup> and  
321 poor adherence has been associated with increased visual field defect severity.<sup>24</sup> A recent  
322 analysis of visual field data from the LiGHT trial showed greater visual field preservation  
323 in the SLT group after 3 years, probably due to greater drop-free IOP control.<sup>25</sup> Another  
324 possible explanation for the lower surgery rate in the HMS group may be less circadian  
325 fluctuation associated with surgical vs. medical control of IOP. A recent study showed

326 that surgical IOP control (either trabeculectomy or Hydrus) resulted in significantly less  
327 circadian fluctuation than medication alone in a contact lens stress model.<sup>26</sup> While the 3-  
328 year rate of loss in visual field mean deviation  $\geq 2.5$  dB did not reach the threshold for  
329 statistical significance, the observed rates of visual field progression and postoperative  
330 IOP elevations were lower in the HMS group.

331 Overall BCVA and ocular health findings did not differ between the two groups. Visual  
332 recovery was rapid and 97% of eyes BCVA measured 20/40 over the course of follow-  
333 up. The most frequent finding unique to Hydrus Microstent group was the formation of  
334 PAS or adhesions near the device. It is important to note that the presence of PAS was  
335 determined by gonioscopy and not related to IOP. Obstructive vs. non-obstructive status  
336 was determined by the ability to visualize the device inlet. Presence of PAS was not  
337 associated with loss of device function or other adverse events.

338 The long-term impact of cataract surgery on corneal endothelial cell counts in glaucoma  
339 patients compared to normal eyes is not well understood. We found an 11% reduction in  
340 mean cell count in the CS group. This is consistent with previous studies of effect of  
341 phacoemulsification on endothelial cells.<sup>27, 28</sup> The initial postoperative findings in this  
342 study suggests that the addition of the microstent induced an incremental non-significant  
343 loss in mean central cell count of 2% (approximately 75 cells/ $\mu\text{m}^2$ ). This finding may be  
344 related to the additional surgical manipulation with insertion and removal of additional  
345 cohesive viscoelastic when placing the device. However, after the initial postoperative  
346 measurement, there were no differences in the rate of subsequent endothelial cell loss  
347 from 3 months to 3 years, suggesting that the presence of the device itself does not  
348 adversely threaten corneal health compared to cataract surgery alone. While significant

349 differences in endothelial cell loss were found with a supraciliary microsent,<sup>29</sup> the  
350 differences were first detected after 4 years of follow up. While it is possible that ECD  
351 differences may have been apparent at 3 years, follow up at 3 years was available in a  
352 very small number of eyes compared to 4 and 5 years. Annual specular microscopy will  
353 be performed in the HORIZON study out to 5 years to monitor changes in ECD.

354 The 3-year HORIZON study findings suggest the following: (1) combining Hydrus with  
355 phacoemulsification reduces medication use and improves the likelihood of remaining  
356 drop-free; (2) the IOP lowering effect and reduced medication burden following Hydrus  
357 plus phacoemulsification is durable; (3) combining Hydrus Microstent with cataract  
358 surgery reduces the risk of additional incisional glaucoma surgery compared to cataract  
359 surgery alone; and (4) there were no significant differences in safety outcomes between  
360 the groups, including the long-term rate of endothelial cell loss.

#### 361 Study Limitations

362 Despite multiple measures to minimize bias, it was not possible to mask the surgeon as to  
363 treatment group during postoperative examinations, although the study group for specular  
364 microscopy scans were masked to the reading center. The majority of surgeons had  
365 limited prior experience with the implantation technique. The study excluded patients  
366 with secondary open angle glaucoma and thus the results may not be generalizable to  
367 these populations. Inclusion was limited to POAG eyes with age related cataract as the  
368 only comorbidity, and the procedure was assessed in combination with  
369 phacoemulsification. Medication wash out was not repeated after 2 years, and so IOP  
370 reduction attributable to the device alone at 3 years is indirect. The rate of re-intervention  
371 was not a prespecified endpoint, and will require further follow-up to confirm the 3-year

*Ahmed et. al.**HORIZON 3-Year Outcomes*

372 findings. Despite the limitations, we believe the study is sufficiently powered to  
373 demonstrate a significant difference in long term IOP and medication reduction and need  
374 for IOP-lowering procedures with Hydrus Microstent implantation versus cataract  
375 surgery alone.

376

Journal Pre-proof

377 References  
378

- <sup>1</sup> Klein R, Klein BEK. The prevalence of age-related eye disease and visual impairment in aging: current estimates. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 2013;54:ORSF5-ORSF13.
- <sup>2</sup> Vold S, Ahmed IIK, Craven ER, et al. Two-year COMPASS trial results: supraciliary microstenting with phacoemulsification in patient with open-angle glaucoma and cataracts. *Ophthalmology* 2016;123:2103-2112.
- <sup>3</sup> Samuelson TW, Chang DF, Marquis R, et al. A Schlemm canal microstent for intraocular pressure reduction in primary open-angle glaucoma and cataract: the HORIZON study. *Ophthalmology* 2019;126–129.
- <sup>4</sup> Pfeiffer N, Garcia Feijoo JG, Martinez JM, et al. A randomized trial of a Schlemm’s canal microstent with phacoemulsification for reduction of intraocular pressure in open-angle glaucoma. *Ophthalmology* 2015;122:1283-1293.
- <sup>5</sup> Samuelson TW, Sarkesian, SR, Lubeck DM, et al. Prospective, randomized, controlled pivotal trial of an ab interno implanted trabecular micro-bypass in primary open-angle glaucoma and cataract: Two-year results. *Ophthalmology* 2019;126:811-821.
- <sup>6</sup> Gedde JS, Feuer WJ, Shi W, et al. Treatment outcomes in the primary tube versus trabeculectomy study after 1 year of follow up. *Ophthalmology* 2018;125:650-663.
- <sup>7</sup> El Mallah M, Seibold LK, Kahook MD, et al. 12-month retrospective comparison of Kahook Dual Blade excisional goniotomy with iStent trabecular bypass device implantation in glaucomatous eyes at the time of cataract surgery. *Adv Ther* 2019;doi.org/10.1007/s12325-2019-01025-1
- <sup>8</sup> Ondrejka S, Korber N. 360 degree ab-interno Schlemm’s canal viscodilation in primary open angle glaucoma. *Clinical Ophthalmology* 2019;13:1235-1246.
- <sup>9</sup> Francis BA Minckler D, Dustin L. Combined cataract extraction and trabeculotomy by the internal approach for coexisting cataract and open-angle glaucoma: initial results. *J Cataract Refract Surg* 2008;34:1096-1103.
- <sup>10</sup> Gulati V, Fan S, Toris CB, et al. A novel 8-mm Schelmm’s canal scaffold reduces outflow resistance in human anterior segment perfusion model. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 2013;54:1698–1704.
- <sup>11</sup> Craven ER, Katz LJ, Wells JM, et al. Cataract surgery with trabecular micro-bypass stent implantation in patients with mild-to-moderate open-angle glaucoma and cataract: Two-year follow up. *J Cataract Refract Surg* 2012;38:1339-1345.
- <sup>12</sup> Lass JH, Benetz BA, He J, et al. Corneal endothelial cell loss and morphometric changes 5 years after phacoemulsification with or without CyPass micro-stent. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2019;208:211-218.
- <sup>13</sup> Hodapp E, Parrish RK II, Anderson DR. Clinical decisions in glaucoma. St Louis: The CV Mosby Co; 1993.

- 
- <sup>14</sup> American National Standard for Ophthalmics – Implantable Glaucoma Devices. The American National Standards Institute, Z80.27-2014. The Vision Council, Alexandria VA 2014.
- <sup>15</sup> Otarola F, Virgili F, Shah A, et. al. Ab interno trabecular bypass surgery with Schlemm’s canal microstent (Hydrus) for open angle glaucoma (Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2020 (in press) DOI: 10.1002 / 14651858.CD012740.pub2
- <sup>16</sup> Johnson T, Jampel H. Intraocular Pressure following Prerandomization glaucoma medication wash out in the HORIZON and COMPASS trial. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2020;216:110-120.
- <sup>17</sup> Jones J, Koch DD, Vold S, et al. Results from the United States Cohort of the Horizon trial of a Schlemm canal microstent to reduce intraocular pressure in primary open-angle glaucoma. *J Cataract Refract Surg* 2019;45:1305-1315.
- <sup>18</sup> Wang SY, Singh K, Stein JD, et al. Ocular antihypertensive medication use after iStent implantation concurrent with cataract surgery vs. cataract surgery alone in a large US Health Care Claims Database. *JAMA Ophthalmol* 2019;137:21–27.
- <sup>19</sup> Gedde SJ, Feuer WJ, Lim KS, et al. Treatment outcomes in the primary tube versus trabeculectomy study after 3 years follow-up. *Ophthalmology* 2020;127:333-345.
- <sup>20</sup> Sharkawi E, Artes PH, Oleszczuk JD, et al. Systematic occlusion of shunts: control of early postoperative IOP and hypotony related complications following glaucoma shunt surgery. *J Glaucoma* 2016; 25:54-61.
- <sup>21</sup> Budenz DL, Barton K, Gedde SJ, et al. Five-year treatment outcomes in the Ahmed Bearveldt comparison study. *Ophthalmology* 2015;122:308-316.
- <sup>22</sup> Gazzard G, Konstantakopoulou E, Garway-Heath D, et al. Selective laser trabeculoplasty versus eye drops for first-line treatment of ocular hypertension and glaucoma (LiGHT): a multicenter randomized controlled trial. *Lancet* 2019;393:1505–1516.
- <sup>23</sup> Tsai JC. A comprehensive perspective on patient adherence to topical glaucoma therapy. *Ophthalmology* 2009;116:S30-S36.
- <sup>24</sup> Sleath B, Blalock S, Robin A, et al. The relationship between glaucoma medication adherence, eye drop technique, and visual field defect severity. *Ophthalmology* 2011;118:2398-2402.
- <sup>25</sup> Wright DM, Konstantakopoulou E, Montesano G, et al. Visual Field Outcomes from LiGHT: Laser in Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension, a multicentre, randomized controlled trial. *Ophthalmology* 2020 (in press) doi.org/10.1016/j.ophtha\_2020.03.029
- <sup>26</sup> Posarelli C, Ortenzio P, Fefferas A, et al. Twenty-four hour contact lens sensor monitoring of aqueous humor dynamics in surgically or medically treated glaucoma patients. *Journal of Ophthalmology* 2019. Doi.org/10.1155/2019/9890831.
- <sup>27</sup> Reuschel A, Bogatcgh H, Oertel N et al. Comparison of endothelial changes and power settings between torsional and longitudinal phacoemulsification. *J Cataract Refract Surg* 2010;36(11):1855-61.

---

<sup>28</sup> Ianchulev T, Lane S, Lass JH, et al. Corneal endothelial cell density and morphology after phacoemulsification in patients with primary open-angle glaucoma and cataracts. *Cornea* 2019;38:325-331.

<sup>29</sup> Lass JH, Benetz BA, He J, et al. Corneal endothelial cell loss and morphometric changes 5 years after phacoemulsification with or without Cypass Micro-stent. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2019;208:211-218.

Journal Pre-proof

Figure 1: Mean IOP (washout IOP shown at day 0). Error bars are 95% confidence intervals. Wash out value shown for Day 0 (operative day).

Figure 2: Mean Medication Count. Error bars are 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 3: 3-year Kaplan-Meier cumulative probability of repeat glaucoma surgery

Figure 4: Change in Endothelial Cell Density from prior visit. Specular microscopy images taken preoperatively and postoperatively at 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months. Error bars are 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 5: Change in rate of 30% endothelial cell loss from prior visit. Specular microscopy images taken preoperatively and postoperatively at 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months.



**Table 1: Medication-Free Rates stratified by preoperative medication count**

Preoperative Count	2 years		3 years	
	HMS	CS	HMS	CS
1	88%	48%	79%	48%
2	79%	61%	74%	56%
3 or 4	51%	30%	51%	33%
Mean	78%	48%	72%	46%
IOP – mmHg*	16.6±3.2	17.4±2.8	16.4±3.2	17.1±3.1

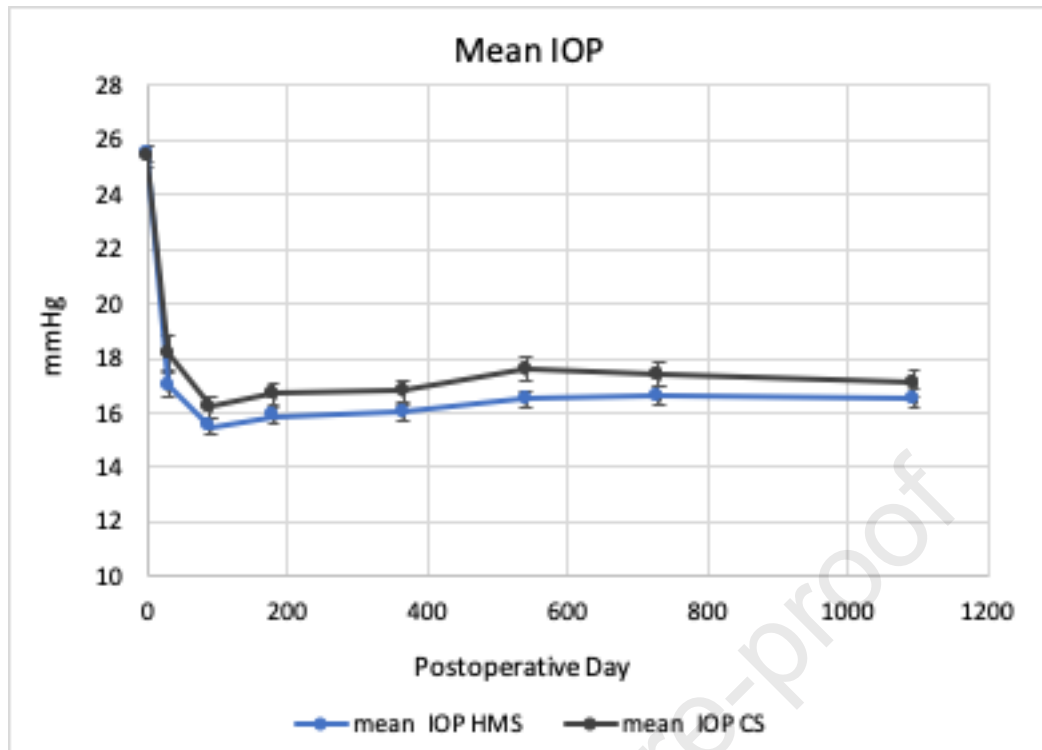
\*Mean IOP of unmedicated eyes

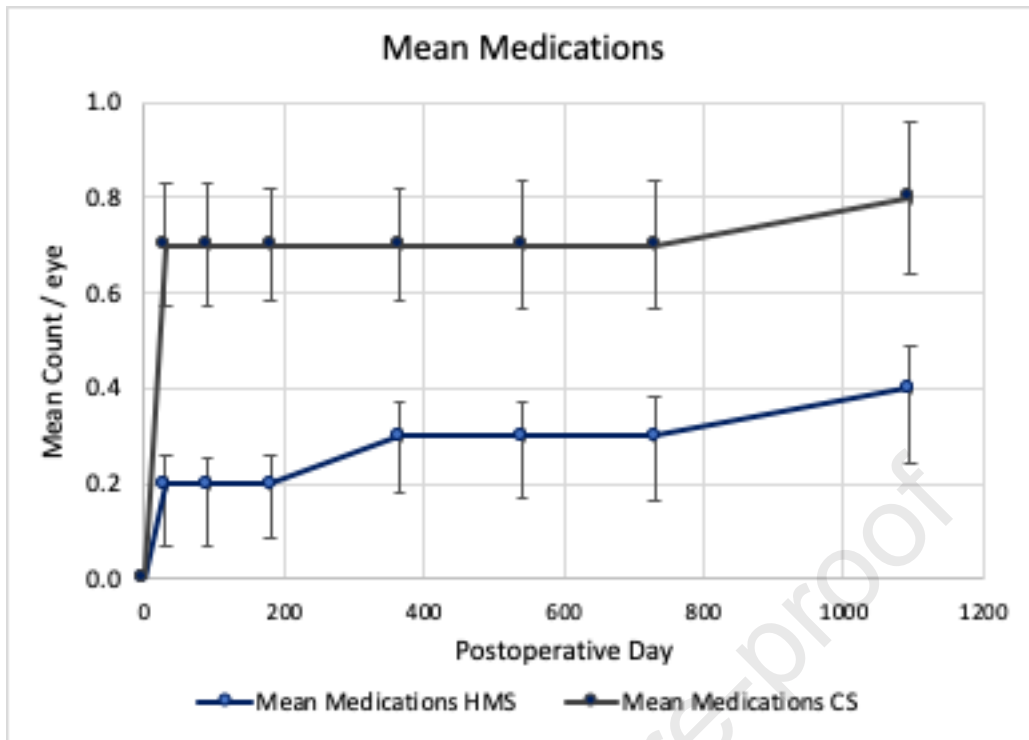
**Table 2: 3-Year Medication-free IOP Reduction**

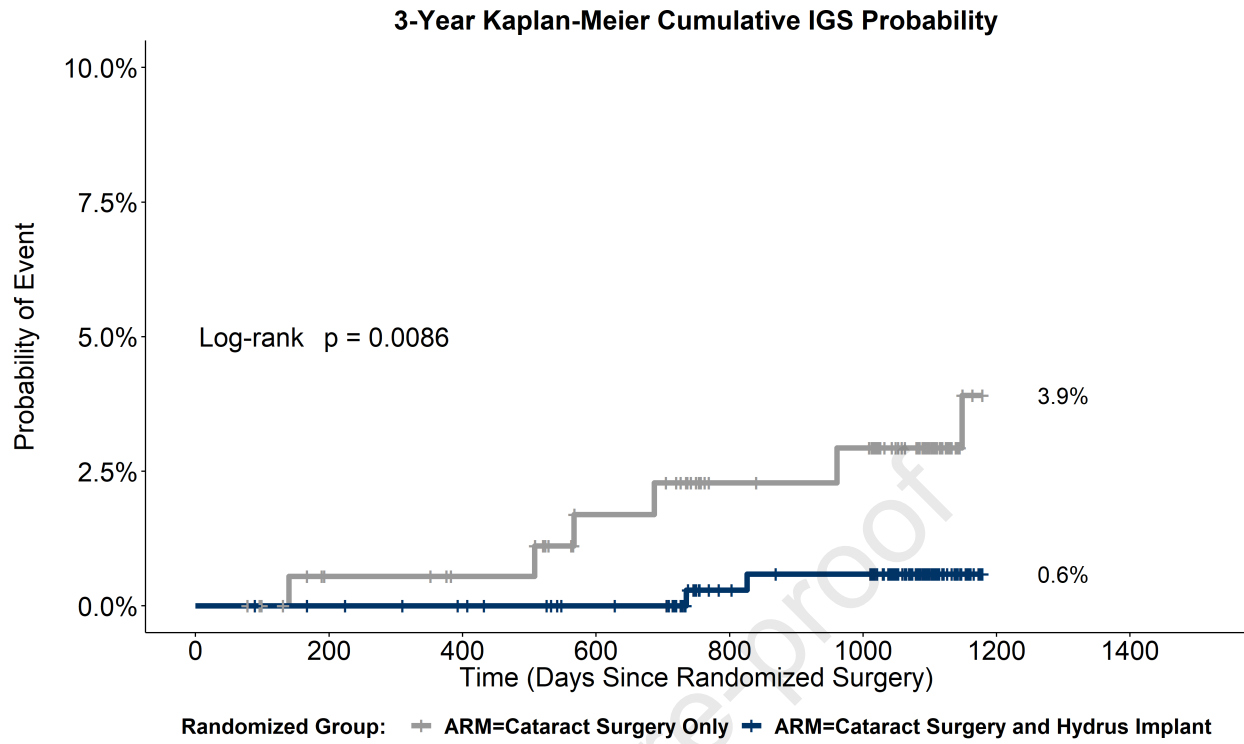
Medication Free Eyes	HMS	CS	p-value
Preoperative mean $\pm$ SD	25.5 $\pm$ 3.0	25.4 $\pm$ 2.9	0.95
3 Year Follow-up			
$\leq$ 18 mmHg	56.2%	34.6%	<0.001
$\geq$ 20% IOP Reduction	62.0%	41.1%	<0.001
$\geq$ 30% IOP Reduction	40.9%	21.5%	0.003
$\geq$ 40% IOP Reduction	22.6%	8.4%	<0.001

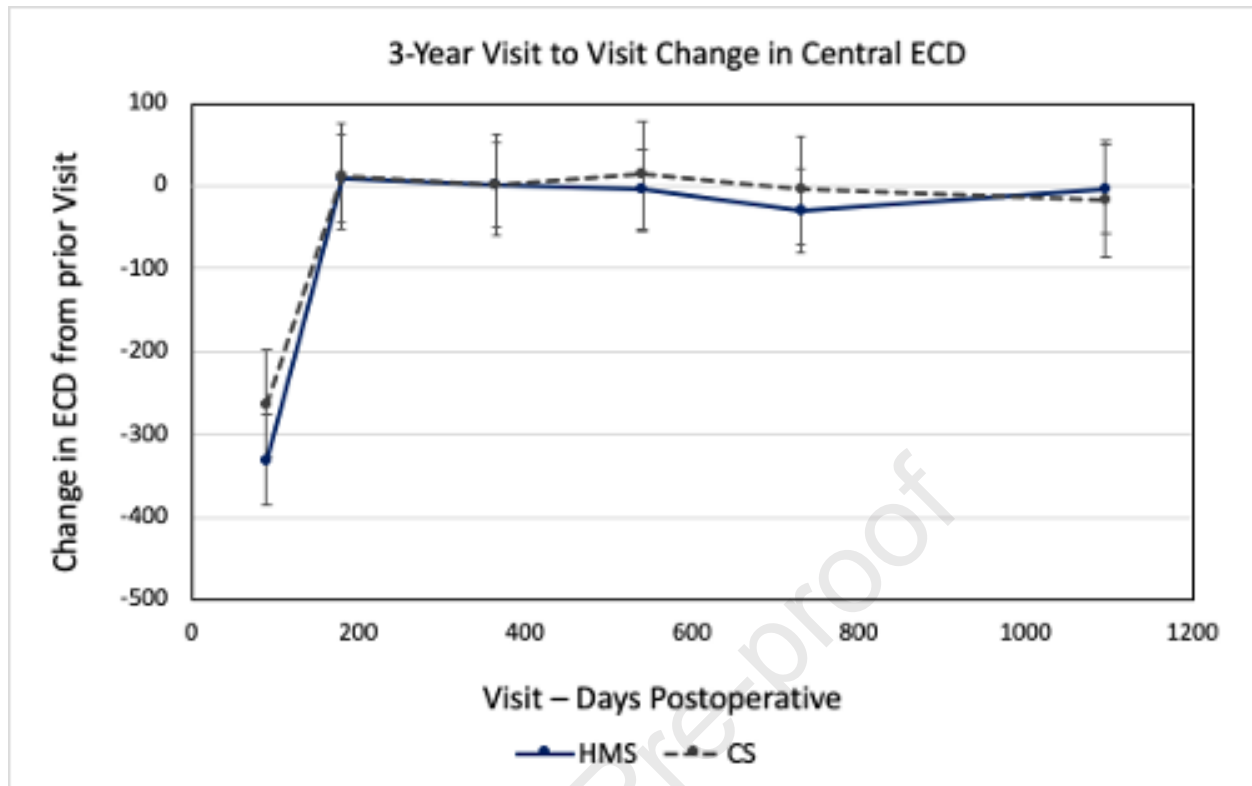
**Table 3: Adverse Events. Most frequent adverse events at 3 years.**

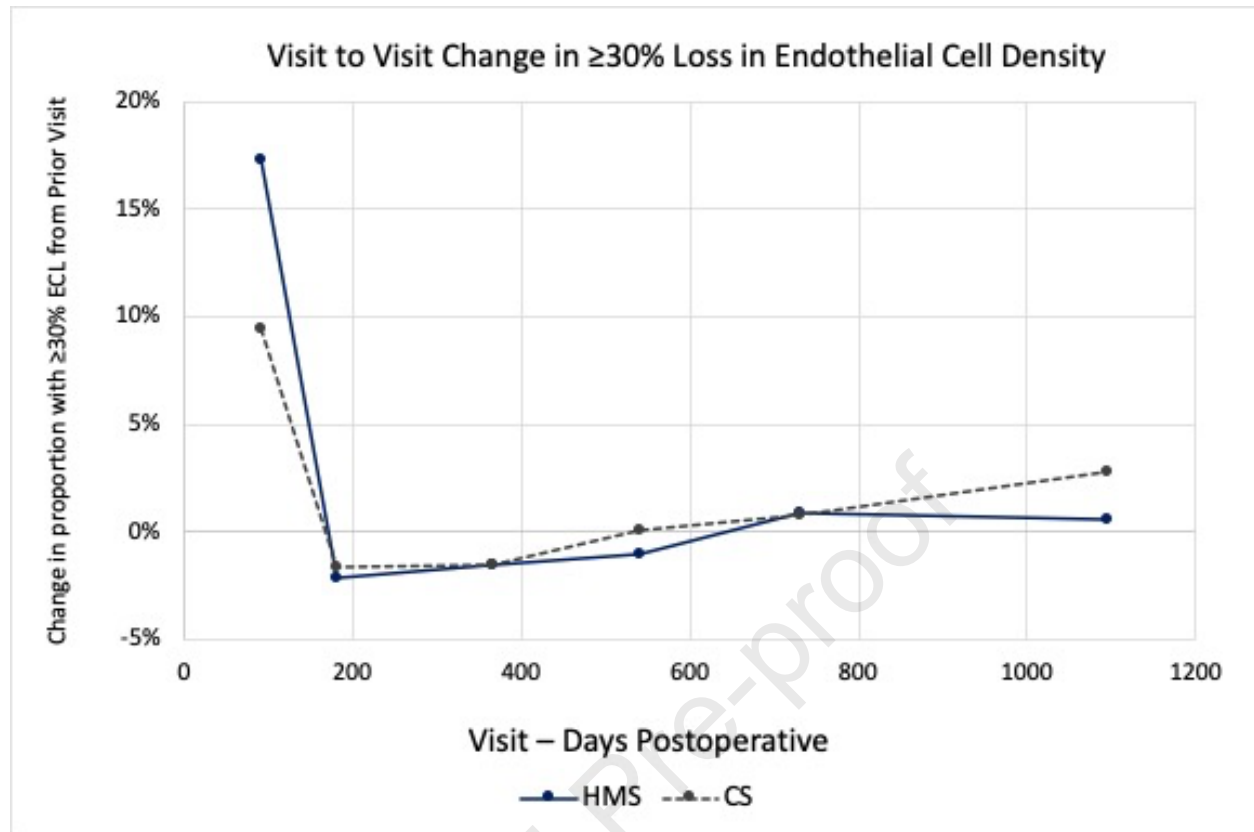
	Cumulative Events 2 Years			Cumulative Events 3 Years		
	HMS	CS	Difference	HMS	CS	Difference
BCVA loss of $\geq 2$ ETDRS lines $\geq 3$ months	1.4%	1.6%	-0.2%	1.6%	2.1%	-0.5%
Worsening in visual field MD $\geq 2.5$ dB	4.3%	5.3%	-1.0%	6.2%	8.6%	-2.3%
Postoperative malposition	1.4%	0.0%	1.4%	1.4%	0.0%	1.4%
Peripheral anterior synechiae with device obstruction	3.5%	0.0%	3.5%	4.3%	0.0%	4.3%
Peripheral anterior synechiae - non obstructive	7.3%	2.1%	7.3%	8.1%	2.7%	8.1%
Device obstruction, partial or complete	7.3%	0.0%	7.3%	7.6%	0.0%	7.6%
SLT/Trabeculoplasty	0	0.5%	-0.5%	0.8%	2.7%	1.9%













3-year follow-up of a prospective, randomized trial evaluating the safety and effectiveness of the Hydrus Microstent combined with phacoemulsification for treatment of open angle glaucoma shows reduced IOP and medication use compared to phacoemulsification alone.

Journal Pre-proof