

Destructive Eye Surgeries in Nigeria: A Review Article

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Introduction: The decision to remove an eye is a difficult but often inevitable one that an ophthalmologist has to take occasionally. In many cultures, the removal of an eye, even if blind, is not acceptable, except when very painful or disfigured^[1]. Evisceration, enucleation and exenteration are destructive surgeries that may be performed on the eye. The aim of this study was to review literature on destructive eye surgeries in Nigeria with a view to assessing the frequency and indications for such surgeries across the country.

Methods: Article search on destructive eye surgeries across the country yielded 22 references. The search was achieved through Index Medicus, Pubmed, Ajol, google search engine, and personal contact with authors and colleagues. Information extracted included, year of publication, span of the study, number of eyes, gender involvement, indication for surgery, and types of destructive eye surgeries that were performed.

Results: The study period of the various studies ranged from 4 to ten years. Peak age of patients who underwent destructive surgeries was 30

years. No specific regional trend was observed across the country. There was a male preponderance in almost all the studies. The number of eyes studied varied from one report to another, ranging from 29 eyes^[2] to 477 eyes^[3]. Destructive eye surgery constituted as high as 15.8% of all the surgeries in one study^[3] and as low as 4.9% in another^[4]. The common indications for removal of the eyes were trauma, infection, panophthalmitis or endophthalmitis, painful blind eye, corneal disease, uveitis, spontaneous intraocular haemorrhage, cosmesis, anterior staphyloma and tumours. The commonest reasons were trauma in 47.4% of the reports, infection in 36.8% and tumour in 15.8%. The surgeries performed in earlier reports were mainly enucleation^[4,5,6]. While evisceration is the more common procedure in the more recent reports. There was low occurrence of exenteration^[7]. The commonest reason for removal of the eye in children less than 10 years was retinoblastoma, a childhood ocular malignancy.

Conclusion: Many studies have been conducted on indications for eye removal across the country. The commonest reasons were trauma and infection. Evisceration is currently preferred to enucleation. Male preponderance was observed. Retinoblastoma was the commonest indication in children. No regional variations were identified.

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