Flexible iris hooks, useful as adjunctive devices during cataract surgery in eyes that have poorly dilating pupils (with and without associated Tamsulosin use), have been available for many years. They simplify surgical maneuvering atraumatically, during these challenging cases, by mechanically enlarging miotic pupils resistant to standard topical mydriatic drops.

Despite development of alternative pupil expansion products such as the Myalugin ring and Beehler pupil dilator (two commonly* used) which have their proponents, certain cases lend themselves to iris hook use. For example, cataract surgery in hyperopic eyes with shallow anterior chambers where maneuvering room is at a premium, go smoother when iris hooks are utilized. There is not much room to place a Myalugin ring or Beehler pupil dilator in a crowded anterior chamber. In cases involving Floppy Iris Syndrome, a Myalugin ring may dislocate intraoperatively when an extremely floppy iris dilates unexpectedly. Whereas, iris hooks can be adjusted to firmly keep the iris maximally dilated. I reserve use of a Beehler pupil dilator to cases with bound down pupils from posterior synechiae, since these pupils have the potential for normal dilation if the adhesions are broken, which is accomplished with the device. In my opinion, iris hook placement is well suited for use in small pupil Pseudoexfoliation cataract cases, since it is the least likely of the available pupil expanders to strip zonules because insertion requires minimal intraocular manipulation.

The major drawback to iris hook use, in my opinion, has been poor maneuverability using standard tying forceps that provide only one point fixation. I, therefore, envisioned utilizing two point fixation to aid the surgeon in intraoperative iris hook placement. It was with this in mind, that I designed the Goldberg Iris Hook Forcep, which will improve the cataract surgeon's proficiency during procedures utilizing flexible iris hooks.

*Pupil expanders by Oasis, Visitec and Graether are also available, but, since I have no experience using these devices, I can only surmise my aforementioned personal use recommendations pertaining to the Myalugin ring also apply to them based on their similarity.

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