

"W" ACCOMMODATING INTRAOCULAR LENS

BACKGROUND

[0001] Intraocular lenses have for many years had a design of a single optic with loops attached to the optic to center the lens and fixate it in the empty capsular bag of the human eye. In the mid '80s plate lenses were introduced, which comprised a silicone lens, 10.5 mm in length, with a 6 mm optic. These lenses could be folded but did not fixate well in the capsular bag, but resided in pockets between the anterior and posterior capsules. The first foldable lenses were all made of silicone. In the mid 1990s an acrylic material was introduced as the optic of lenses. The acrylic lens comprised a biconvex optic with a straight edge into which were inserted loops to center the lens in the eye and fixate it within the capsular bag.

[0002] Recently accommodating intraocular lenses have been introduced to the market, which generally are modified plate haptic lenses. A plate haptic lens may be defined as an intraocular lens having two or more plate haptics where combined junctions with the optic represent one quarter or more of the circumference of the optic.

[0003] Flexible acrylic material has gained significant popularity among ophthalmic surgeons. In 2003 for example more than 50% of the intraocular lenses implanted had acrylic optics. Hydrogel lenses have also been introduced. The acrylic materials are incapable of multiple flexions without fracturing.

[0004] The advent of an accommodating lens which functions by moving the optic along the axis of the eye by repeated flexions somewhat limited the materials from which the lens could be made. Silicone is the ideal material, since it is flexible and can be bent probably several million times without showing any damage. Additionally one or more grooves or hinges can be placed across the plate adjacent to the optic as part of the lens design to facilitate movement of the optic relative to the outer ends of the haptics. An example accommodating lens of this nature is disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,387,126 in the name of J. Stuart Cumming.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] According to embodiments of the present invention, a new form of accommodating intraocular lens having a lens body and optic is provided with plural straps, preferably two, between the optic and lens body to allow the optic to move anteriorly and posteriorly in response to the pressure gradient created with accommodation. The lens body preferably has a central hinge. The structure is such that it particularly benefits from changes in vitreous pressure with accommodation.

[0005a] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an accommodating intraocular lens comprising a flexible body, such that upon constriction of the ciliary muscle a plate thereof moves posteriorly, and a flexible optic, the lens including a plurality of fixation loops attached to the end of the body, characterised in that, the flexible optic surrounded by the body and mounted to the body by hinged straps moves anteriorly and posteriorly upon ciliary muscle constriction and relaxation relative to the lens body, wherein each strap is on opposite sides of the optic longitudinal to the lens body and each strap has two hinges and wherein the body has two pairs of hinges.

[0006] Thus, it is a feature of the present invention to provide a new form of accommodating lens.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [0007] Figure 1a is a prospective view of the front or anterior side of the lens according to the present invention.
- [0008] Figure 1b is a prospective view of an alternative embodiment.
- [0009] Figure 2 is a plan view of the anterior side.
- [0010] Figure 3 is a plan view of the back or posterior side of the lens.
- [0011] Figure 4 is a side view.
- [0012] Figure 5 is an end view.
- [0013] Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view along lines 6-6 of Figure 2.
- [0014] Figure 7 is a perspective view of the back or posterior side of the lens.
- [0015] Figure 8 is a side view during distance vision.
- [0016] Figure 9 is a side view during near vision.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0017] Turning now to the drawings, Fig. 1a is a perspective view of the present lens 10 including a lens body or plate 12 and optic 14. The body 12 includes haptics 15. The body 12 and optic 14 are formed of silicone or other suitable flexible material. Straps 16 are provided between the body 12 and the periphery or outer diameter of the optic 14. Each strap preferably includes one or two hinges 17 on the anterior side of the lens, or no hinges. The straps may be 0.5 mm long in the radial direction and 0.25 mm thick to support the optic 14 by the straps 16. The optic 14 typically can have a diameter of 4.5-5.0 mm, a typical width of the overall lens 10 on the short side is 6.1 mm and the typical length from end to end (not including fixation fingers) on the long side is 10.5-11.5 mm. A typical optic thickness is 0.4-1.3 mm.

[0018] The body 12 and optic 14, as well as outer thickened footplate ends 20, are formed of silicone or other suitable flexible material. The lens 10 also preferably includes fixation loops 24 of polyimide or similar material. A typical outer loop-to-loop length is 11.0-12.5 mm. The thickened ends 20 fully engulf the fixation loops 24 in the silicon thus to provide a strong matrix to hold the loops 24. There is an additional function of these thickened areas of the plate. They also serve to elevate the anterior capsule of the human lens away from the optic and from the posterior capsule after the cataract has been removed and the lens implanted. This may serve to reduce capsular opacification and contraction. The haptics 15 can be any typical shape, such as in the present Figures, rectangular, triangular, or the like.

[0019] The straps 16 and hinges 17 function by allowing the optic to move anteriorly and posteriorly. The approximately 1.0-2.0 mm wide straps are a point of relative weakness in the plane of the lens body 12 encircling the optic 14, thereby allowing the entire optic 14 to herniate forward (anteriorly) from its far posterior position in a translational forward movement. This feature is enhanced by keeping the mass of the optic 14 to a minimum as described below. This new mechanism may boost the effect of the other features of the lens. Rather than a fluid-filled sac pushing through an aperture as in some prior lenses, the present lens involves a deformable solid optic moving anteriorly and posteriorly through a hinged area 16 in the plate or body 12. Central hinges 18 on the anterior side of the body 12 hinging the haptics 15 further facilitate movement of the optic with ciliary muscle contraction. Figure 1b shows an alternative embodiment with a pair of hinges 51 as shown in alignment with the edges of the optic rather than the hinges 18.

[0020] Of significance is the manner in which the optic 14 and haptic plates 15 move in accommodating from distance to near vision and this is particularly illustrated in Figs. 8 and 9 with respect to anterior A and posterior B reference lines in these Figs. As is usual, the ends of the haptics 15 or the loops 24 as the case may be are implanted in the capsular bag such that the optic 14 is vaulted posteriorly for distance vision as seen in Fig. 8. The optic 14 moves anteriorly for near vision as shown in Fig. 9 upon ciliar muscle contraction. In particular, the whole lens moves forward a little as seen in Fig. 9 and the haptic plates 15 move centrally and backward slightly in the direction of arrows 44 which results in a pressure caused by ciliary muscle contraction to further increase pressure on the optic 14 that pushes the optic further forward because the hinge or hinges 17 are thin and stretch a little and the optic deforms somewhat. This provides an increase in anterior optic movement with optic deformation. Also, the ends of the haptics 15 push backward against the posterior capsule as indicated by arrows 46 in Fig. 9 with increases of vitreous pressure.

[0021] The width of the hinges is 1.0-3.0 mm and the thickness of 0.1-0.3 mm.

[0022] Another feature allowing the present lens to accommodate is that the optic 14 can be deformable and may be constructed with a lower durometer than previously built into any lens. The surrounding plate 12 preferably is made of a higher, standard durometer material, similar to the eyeonics Inc. AT45 lens (which is durometer 48). The optic 14 itself is not required to contribute to the structural stability of the lens and, therefore, the optic 14 can be extremely soft. In addition to forward axial translation, the bending or deformation of the optic 14 with accommodation will induce power change. This may result in the bending of the optic to be accentuated. This feature is further enhanced by maintaining the optic very thin since a thinner optic will bend more than a thick optic for any given level of force applied. An

example range of optic 14 center thicknesses is about 0.4 mm to 1.3 mm for a diopter range of 10 to 33. A typical common diopter of the optic of the present lens is 22 diopters and which has a thickness of 0.73 mm. As a comparison, the AT 45 noted earlier in a 22 diopter has a thickness of 0.88 mm, and a newer AT-45SE is 0.98 mm.

[0023] A 4.5 mm diameter optic 14 and with a reduced edge thickness of 0.1 to 0.2 mm for example can be provided. The index of refraction can be increased and this will accentuate this feature even further.

[0024] The present lens can be easily foldable with forceps or an injector. A pre-loaded system is preferable.

[0025] An additional feature is the incorporation of a ridge or ridges 40 on the back surface (posterior side) of the plate 12 and/or haptic arm as the case may be as seen in Figs. 3 and 7. These ridges traverse the plate and completely encircle the optic around the perimeter of the lens body. There is an additional ridge central to the first ridge traversing the plate adjacent to the optic straps. The purpose of these ridges is to prevent proliferation of lens epithelial cells into the area behind the plate or optic. For plate lenses this can dramatically reduce the incidence of capsular contraction. Epithelial cells will be prevented from migrating under the plate and undergoing a fibrotic contraction. Furthermore, the square edge of the loops, plate haptics and the square edge of the optic further protect against cells migrating in from the sides of the plate.

While an embodiment of the present invention as been shown and described, various modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention, and all such modifications and equivalents are intended to be covered.

Claims

1. An accommodating intraocular lens comprising a flexible body, such that upon constriction of the ciliary muscle a plate thereof moves posteriorly, and a flexible optic, the lens including a plurality of fixation loops attached to the end of the body,

characterised in that,

the flexible optic surrounded by the body and mounted to the body by hinged straps moves anteriorly and posteriorly upon ciliary muscle constriction and relaxation relative to the lens body,

wherein each strap is on opposite sides of the optic longitudinal to the lens body and each strap has two hinges and

wherein the body has two pairs of hinges.

2. A lens as in claim 1 wherein each strap has two hinges, each one on a different end of the strap.

3. A lens as in claim 1 further including loops extending from outer ends of the body.

4. A lens as in claim 1 wherein a posterior side of the body includes a ridge.

5. A lens as in claim 1 wherein the straps are thin flexible straps disposed on each side of the optic between the optic and the body, the straps being approximately 0.5 mm long radially and approximately 0.25 mm thick.