



## Surgical Technique in Phacoemulsification

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### Abstract

Phacoemulsification with intraocular lens implantation has become the first line choice in all cataract removal procedures. During cataract surgery, perfect fixation of the patient's eye is a prerequisite for successful surgery. Toothed forceps are most commonly used to immobilize the eyeball to prevent serious complications caused by sudden eye movement, but it sometimes damages the conjunctiva or causes pain to patients. Cotton swabs are very commonly used in eye surgery, such as dip the blood. We noticed that under the assistance of cotton swabs, the whole phacoemulsification procedure become smoothly during surgery.

### Case Presentation

A 60-year-old female came to our clinic on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 complaining of vision deterioration in her left eye for 4 years. The Best Corrected Distance Visual Acuity (BCVA) was 20/40 in the left eye, which presented Grade II nucleus sclerosis. Cataract surgery was performed in her left eye. Throughout the surgical process, many steps demonstrated the auxiliary role of cotton swabs as follows:

1. Assist in fixation of the eyeball, making primary and lateral corneal incisions.
2. Fixation of the eyeball, assist in tearing the anterior capsular membrane of the lens, and avoid capsular tears caused by sudden rotation of the eye.
3. Assist in closing the main incision to maintain the stability of the anterior chamber during cortical aspiration. At the same time, the cornea is dipped with a wet cotton swab to obtain clear vision.
4. Removal the spilled viscoelastic substance.

In conclusion, the flexible use of cotton swabs may help reduce the occurrence of intraoperative complications. It provides a way to safely control the position of the eye without any damage to the conjunctiva.

The video below depicts the skillfully use of cotton swabs during phacoemulsification.

Subtitle in the video: (<https://youtu.be/2vBZvaFdS7k>).

The skillfully use of cotton swabs during phacoemulsification.

1. Assist in fixation of eyeball, making lateral corneal incisions.
2. Assist in fixation of eyeball, making primary corneal incisions.
3. Assist in fixation of eyeball, tearing the anterior capsular membrane of the lens.
4. Maintaining the stability of the anterior chamber.
5. Dipping cornea with wet a cotton swab to obtain clear vision.

Removing the spilled viscoelastic substance.

### OPEN ACCESS

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